僕らはみんな河合荘

BOKURA WA MINNA KAWAISOU

4

宮原るり

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僕らはみんな河合荘 4 宮原るり

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BOKURA WA MINNA KA

どこかしら°可哀想、な住人が
集まる下宿【河合荘】に住む宇佐。
憧れの先輩・律と一つ屋根の下に暮らすも、
他の住人に邪魔されて
まったく進展のない日々…。
しかし、高校の文化祭で事件が…!?
がっくり残念系
一つ屋根の下ラブコメ♥

宮原るり
MIYAHARA RURI

なんか下ネタが足りない気がして
身内に相談したら
こいつ正気かという顔で見られました。
慣れは適量をわからなくさせますね。

あっ

今日は「気まぐれディナー」作ってくれるんだ

私のも食べたいな

河合荘の食事は基本平日のみ

土日は自費で外食か自炊

しかし住子さんの気がむいた日は夕食を用意してくれる

本日夕食作ります！

ごはんよ――

どんな内容でも一律300円という良心価格だが

時々とんでもなく気まぐれる

柑のメイン ゆで玉子

先週は飛騨牛ステーキだったな～

一律300円

河合荘には
立派な
畑があり

よく
シロさんが
手伝っている

ちょっと休憩
しない？

ふー

シロくんに
ほとんど
頼んじゃって
ごめんなさいね

いいよー
俺 畑仕事
大好きだし！

今日みたいに
暑い日なんて
最高よね

ニコニコ

助かった
ありがとう

はい
住子さん
お茶ー

ありがとう

はい シロ
きな粉ー

いやっほう
のどに
からむぅう

いろんな意味で
大好き

おー
おつかれさん

ただいまー
おつかれさまです

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CHAPTER 1

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, SENPAI. MOLLY'S PREGNANT.
Darren turned out to be a real dick cheese.
IT GETS EVEN SCARIER IN CHAPTER FOUR.
AND THE FORMERLY WORTHLESS COUNT IS ACTING SCARY.
SCARIER THAN THIS?!
Come to think of it, you wrote that in your notes.
I GOT COFFEE TICKETS, TOO...
THEY'RE HOLDING A BOOK EVENT THIS SATURDAY.
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT READING THAT BOOK.
IT STILL TAKES ME A WHILE, THOUGH.
OH! SPEAKING OF BOOKS... AT MY FORMER PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH...
ばっ
GRAB

HEY!
MAYUMI-SA...
I REALLY WANNA GO, TOO.

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SAYAKA-CHAN WAS IN THE MOOD TO STEP ON SOMEONE, AND I WAS IN THE MOOD TO BE STEPPED ON. IT'S A RARE OCCURRENCE.
HER SENSE OF BALANCE IS AMAZING...
PANT PANT
PANT PANT
YEAH, HAVING YOU PITY ME FROM THAT SITUATION REALLY DOES MAKE ME FEEL ULTRA BAD.
YOU SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR ASSUMING MAYUMI-SAN'S THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR YOUTH.
DON'T YOU HAVE A DATE THIS WEEKEND?
TWITCH
Before Mayumi-san gets back.
Come on.
GIVE THOSE BACK.
They came all the way from the ex-France!!
A meeting by the ex-France...

I JUST HEARD THE BEST NEWS I'VE HAD IN MONTHS!
I'M SO SURPRISED HEARING SOMEONE IN YOUR COMPLEX BROKE UP IS THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE HAD IN MONTHS WHEN YOU'RE NEARLY 30 AND CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE A SECOND.
I'm back.
I CAN FEEL SAYAKA-CHAN'S AGITATION THROUGH THE BOTTOMS OF HER FEET...
!
WAS SHE DUMPED?!
WOW, WHAT A DISGUSTING SOURCE.
STOMP
ゴゴゴゴ
BESIDES, HE DIDN'T DUMP ME.
HE'S TERRIBLE AND PERSISTENT.
HE PROBABLY NOTICED AND BROKE UP WITH ME FIRST...
I'D LIKE TO STUFF FIVE CRAYFISH IN HIS UNDERWEAR.
THAT APOLOGETIC AND SUPERIOR EXPRESSION...
HE'S SO ANNOYING. I WAS GOING TO BREAK UP WITH HIM.
You're wrong. You still have more than another year. I have plenty of time.
STOMP
ゴッゲシ
ゴッ
It's not down to the wire yet.
I'm fine.
Your face is starting to get censored.
SAYAKA-CHAN, YOU'D BETTER STOP BEFORE IT BECOMES A LEGAL CASE.

I also made them suspect I made him break up with me because I wanted to get away from him.
I DID TELL EVERY-ONE HE KNOWS
THAT HE HAS SOME REPULSIVE TENDENCIES, THOUGH...
SHE'S EVIL.
I CAN'T EVEN GO TO A MIXER TO DISTRACT MYSELF.
I NEED TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE FOR A WHILE SO NO ONE REAL-IZES I'M THE SOURCE...
WE CAN CHEER UP SAYAKA-CHAN WHILE WE'RE THERE.
THEN LET'S ALL GO ON SATURDAY.
WHAT?
I don't want to cheer her up.
WHAT?
I don't want them to cheer me up.
WHAT?
How did this happen?
OH, USA-KUN!
YOU CAME BACK?!

NO, I'M JUST A CUSTOMER!
OPTIMUS
OWNER, THIS BOOK...
ANE-KOUJI-KUN!
YOU CAN COME BACK ANY TIME, YOU KNOW.
I THOUGHT YOU RETURNED TO YOUR VILLAGE.
I'M DELIGHTED TO STUDY WITH YOU AGAIN!
You're wrong.
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE MY DREAM WAS SHATTERED?
The last person was studying abroad.
YOU SEEM BUSY.
IT'S MORE WORK THAN I THOUGHT...
The hall's fine since they've got help, but the cafe...
EXCUSE ME...
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

I SHOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN BOOKS,
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU MORE THE LAST TIME WE MET.
HUH?
WHAT?
HEE HEE
I PROMISE NOT TO GET IN YOUR WAY.
Is that okay, owner?
IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?
okay ♡
WAIT... SAYAKA-SAN!
DON'T MESS AROUND HERE JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GO TO A MIXER!
♪ I know he's weird, but he's not a bad guy.
GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE SO FULL OF ENERGY.
ANOTHER GIRL JUST OFFERED TO HELP.
WHAT?
LOOK.
THE GIRL STANDING NEXT TO SAIONJI-KUN...

GO SOME-WHERE ELSE...
KURO-KAWA-SAN AND I CAN HANDLE THIS.
Take a hint.
Stay away.
WHAT...
SAIONJI-KUN, SHE SAID SHE'D HELP, TOO.
You're right. It's the ear-piercing ghost whisperer.
IT'S GHOST WHISPERER HAYASHI-SAN
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
WOW, SHE LOOKS EVIL.
SHE'S SO SOLIDLY EVIL SHE UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION AND IGNORED ALL HINTS.
SHE NATURALLY CHANGED MY NAME.
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I CALLED YOU KURO-SAN?
I FEEL SUCH AN AFFINITY FOR YOU.
Shiro-saki
HIS NAME'S SHIROKAWA-SAN, BUT WE ALL CALL HIM SHIRO-SAN.
YOUR REAL NAME'S KUROKAWA-SAN?

MAYUMI-SAN'S PRETTY SOLIDLY EVIL HERSELF...
...
OPTIMIST
We have enough people already! Seriously!
BY THE WAY, I'M HELPING, TOO.
BUT NOW NO ONE WILL GET IN OUR WAY.
FORGIVE ME, HAYA-SHI!
...
IS... HAYASHI-SAN...
HUH?
NOTH-ING...
...
IS HAYASHI-SAN INTER-ESTED IN HIM?
Since Sayaka-san's getting involved.
SEEMS THAT WAY.
SHE WAS CERTAINLY ACTING LIKE IT.
WHAT?
BUT SHE...
BUT...

RIT-CHAN,
THERE ARE LOTS OF BOOKS YOU MIGHT LIKE.
...
BUT?
SHIRO-SAN...
...
SURE THING! IN EXCHANGE, I EXPECT YOU TO ASSIST ME WITH MY HIGH-LEVEL BINDING.
NICE ASSIST...
I can't do that.
You brushed me off! That's not how either!
PANT PANT
THE DISCOMFORT SENPAI'S EXPERIENCING
PROBABLY COULDN'T BE CALLED JEALOUSY.

WOW, YOU TWO.
BUT I'M GLAD SHE FELT SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT BOOKS.
IT'S AMAZING.
I WISH MY GUARDIAN SPIRIT WERE NATSUME SOSEKI.
I'M SO IGNORANT.
The way Sayaka compliments Hayashi as well makes her so unpleasant.
GRRR
Tell me more.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE, BUT I RESPECT YOU SO MUCH.
And Hayashi-san is amazing, even though they're younger.
It's not that impressive.
You can ignore him.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT GUARDIAN SPIRITS,
The matter creates an environment in which I can study every day.
BUT I CAN TOTALLY BELIEVE KURO-KUN
IS CONNECTED TO KODA ROHAN.

YOU DON'T SEEM THAT WAY TO ME.
WHAT?
YOU ACCURATELY SORTED THE BOOKS BY GENRE.
AND YOU KNEW KODA ROHAN AND NATSUME SOSEKI WERE THE SAME AGE, RIGHT?
They're the same age, huh!
YEAH, RIGHT. IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE.
YOU LEARNED QUICKLY.
EVEN IF IT'S A COINCIDENCE,
THERE'S NO NEED TO BELITTLE YOURSELF.
YOU OVER-ESTIMATE ME.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO NICE.
I'M NOT BEING NICE.
OH.
I NEED TO GO TO THE REST-ROOM.
PULL
MAYUMI-SAN, COME WITH ME.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? THIS IS UNUSUAL.
You never walk away in the middle of something.
I RUN INTO THOSE GUYS ONCE IN A WHILE...
LADIES' RESTROOM
THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUSLY REALLY SHARP. THEY'RE NOT EASILY FOOLED...
ちら…
PEOPLE LIKE HIM CAN RUIN A MIXER.
OR BRING CLARITY TO LOVE-STRUCK MEN.
In other words.
Such a pain.
HE'S MY NATURAL ENEMY.
POINT
THEY'RE ALSO WEIRDLY PERCEPTIVE AND CASUALLY COMPLIMENT YOU.
When it comes to women
THEY HAVE WEIRD PHERO-MONES, TOO...
THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY POPULAR.
WHAT? HOW?

PEOPLE LIKE YOU FALL FOR THEM ALL THE TIME.
You idiot.
HE'S NOT MY TYPE AT ALL.
HEY, KURO-KUN.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK MAYUMI-SAN IS?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
JUST ANSWER THE QUES-TION.
SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL.
AND EXPERI-ENCED.
SHE SEEMS EARNEST.
I guess.
...
SHOCK
Sigh
Sigh
THAT WAS CLOSE!!
HIS BORING APPEARANCE SUDDENLY BECAME A SUPERIOR LOOK OF "ONLY I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU."
I'VE BEEN STARVED FOR THOSE KINDS OF WORDS.
And I'm also mentally starved for guys.
SHE'S EVEN EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.
AND IT'S EVEN MORE DANGER-OUS SINCE MAYUMI-SAN'S SO EASY TO COMPLE-MENT.
I KNEW HE'D BE THIS KIND OF PERSON.
IF I HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TRYING TO ACT MODEST I WOULD'VE FALLEN FOR WHAT HE SAID.

I came here to distract myself, I didn't expect to be here!
I THINK I'M HAVING A BAD DAY.. I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE.
IF HAYASHI'S AFTER HIM,
IT WON'T BE ANY EASIER FOR HER THAN USA.
WE'RE FINALLY ALONE...
IS THAT A REFERENCE BOOK?
NATIVE COSTUMES OF THE WORLD.. IT MUST BE UNBEARABLE FOR YOU AND YOUR COSTUME FESTISH.
IT'S NOT A FETISH.
THERE ARE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES IN THIS ONE.
I HOPE USA-KUN COMES BACK.
USA-KUN QUIT?!
JUST RECENTLY... BUT USA-KUN LEFT A BIG HOLE WHEN HE LEFT.
He was just supposed to work during summer break, but he stayed on for a while after that.
!??
In more than one way I understand.

I CAN'T WORK HERE?
WHAT?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OPEN POSITIONS RIGHT NOW...
YOU COULD WORK AT MY IZAKAYA.
WHAT?
It's in the same area.
THEN I'LL WORK IN THE RESTAU-RANT...
SORRY, BUT A GIRL...
WHAT?
I WANT TO WORK HERE!
BUT ONLY MEN WORK IN THE CAFE.
WHAT?
DASH
I'M GOING TO ASK THE OWNER!
BUT THERE'S NO POINT IN WORKING...
I-I'VE ALWAYS LOVED COSTUMES.
THOSE COSTUME REFERENCE BOOKS ON DISPLAY OVER THERE ARE MY OWN.
I especially love Meiji and Taisho era stuff!
All kinds?
I HAVE ALL KINDS OF OTHERS AT HOME.
So I'd like to work here.
I SEE...
SHRINK
I'LL LET YOU KNOW FIRST IF ANYTHING OPENS UP.
BUT I'M SORRY.
I APPRECIATE THAT YOU WANT TO HELP.

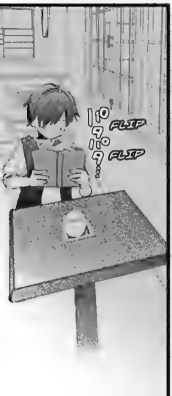
M-GLANCE
All kinds...?
いろいろ
Sigh...
HAYASHI,
WHAT OTHER KINDS OF BOOKS DO YOU HAVE?
COULD I BORROW THEM?
BY THE WAY,
WAIT!
USA-KUN!
WHY?
THOSE OLD BOOKS OVER THERE THAT YOU LIKED ARE SENPAI'S.
SHE HAS EVEN MORE AT HOME.
WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE MORE BOOKS IN THIS SERIES?!
HUH?
YEAH.
ARE THOSE FIRST EDITIONS, TOO?!
I just learned there are first editions.
P...
PROBABLY...

Negotiations Successful
WHEN SHOULD I BRING THEM?
UM...
They might be in storage.
YOU CAN TEXT ME.
WHAT?
I'LL GO GET MY PHONE.
How do I send my number again?
HOLD ON.
EXCHANGE NUMBERS WITH ME!
I WON'T LET HAYASHI BEAT ME TO IT AGAIN.
SENPAI!
SILENCE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
...THAT'S FINE...
ZINGALING
TOOT

RUN
逃っ
SHE'S SO QUICK.
SEN-PAI...

Kawai Ritsu

BEEP


FLIP
FLIP

Save
"Kawai Ritsu"?

AAAH!
JUMP
ズッ
OH...
THANKS FOR WAITING.
YOU'LL CREASE THE SPINE IF YOU PUT IT DOWN LIKE THAT!
YOU'LL DAMAGE THE BINDING!
IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF READING.
YOU SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEM.
They're my books, too...
WHO CARES IF THEY GET A LITTLE DIRTY...
ARE YOU SURE YOU REALLY LOVE BOOKS?!
SLOPPY READER
HIMPU
ムッ
WHAT?!
HIGHLY-STRUNG READER
And it's a first edition!
I'm normal.
You're too sensitive.
Ahem!
I take good care of books I borrow.
Really?
I love books!
WHAT HAPPENED?
Not lending her anything
NEGOTIATIONS COLLAPSED
Not lending her anything
CHAPTER 1/END

CHAPTER 2

THANKS FOR WAITING, EVERYONE.
SHALL WE HAVE A SKETCHING CONTEST?
COULD YOU STOP MAKING INCOMPREHENSIBLE PLANS WITHOUT DISCUSSING THEM WITH US FIRST?
GO BY YOURSELF.
WHAT?
ARE YOU COMPETING FOR ENDURANCE OR DISTANCE?
Either way, you'll be the only one participating.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S A CONTEST.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Alone
WON'T IT BRING BACK MEMORIES FOR YOU? IT'S BEEN YEARS FOR YOU.
KICK
みレ::
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T FEEL NOSTALGIC AT ALL.
Huh...
DOES NORTH HIGH HAVE SKETCHING CONTESTS, TOO?
No.
THE FALL OF MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL... RIGHT AROUND NOW.
I WAS BUSY STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
NOW YOU CAN ENJOY THE EXPERIENCES OF FALL.
LIKE THE SORROW OF HAVING YOUR LINES ERASED BY A HEAVY JACKET.
Ow!
I MADE SOME FOR EVERYONE, TOO.
WHERE SHOULD I GO?
I KNOW! THE AREA BEHIND THE COMPLEX IS PRETTY...

OH.
AAAH!
HOW AWFUL.
SUCH CLICHÉ GRAFFITI...
IT'S ONLY AS CLICHÉ AS YOUR NOTE-BOOKS.
WHAT?
YOU'RE THE WORST...
WHAT?

THIS IS CRAYON.
IT WASN'T DRAWN BY CHILDREN.
AT LEAST IT'S EASIER TO WASH OFF THAN MARKERS OR SPRAY PAINT.
BUT DOESN'T DRAWING THESE SIDE BY SIDE...
...MAKE IT SEEM LIKE POOP COMES OUT OF HERE? THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS GUY.
I got these from Chinatsu-chan.
IN THAT CASE...
...WOULDN'T THIS MAKE IT A COMPLETE SET?
YOU IDIOT. THAT'S CONFUSING.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A SET, THIS ONE IS MORE—
Give me those.

...WILL CLEAN ALL OF THIS UP, WON'T YOU?
YES.
YOU TWO...
SCRUB
SCRUB
LET'S THROW SOME BENZINE ON IT AND ERASE IT ALL AT ONCE.
YOU CAN'T USE IT ON STUCCO.
I COULD ASK THE SAME THING.
THIS IS A PAIN...
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?

THE WALLS IN OUR ROOM ARE PRETTY CRACKED, TOO.
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH CLEANING THAT AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
What? You want me to do it now?!
THERE ARE LOTS OF CRACKS.
WE MIGHT NEED TO FIX IT SOON.
DO WE HAVE TO DO THAT GOOD OF A JOB?
IT WASN'T THAT CLEAN TO BEGIN WITH.
I'M TIRED!
I HOPE THEY LOSE INTEREST...
...

HOW MANY TIMES IS THIS?
Um...
FOUR?
THEY DRAW THIS MARK EVERY TIME.
IS IT THE GUY'S SIGNATURE?
SHIRO-KUN... WILL YOU ERASE IT AGAIN?
SURE.
ERASE AND DRAW, ERASE AND DRAW...
THE FACT THEY ALWAYS USE CRAYON
FEELS LIKE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION OF TRUE S&M.
I'VE BEEN... SO SATISFIED LATELY...
IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE SATISFIED,
BUT I WISH THEY WOULD STOP.
IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR THE NEIGHBORS TO SEE THIS.
PANT
PANT
THERE MUST BE A WAY...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

(THOSE WHO DRAW HERE WILL BE VIRGINS FOR LIFE)
ここにラクガキするなよ
一生童貞
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS DRAWING THAT MARK ISN'T A VIRGIN!
WE'RE ALREADY EMBARRASSING OURSELVES IN FRONT OF THE NEIGHBORS.
WELL, LET'S SEE HOW IT GOES.
HEY!
IT'S BEEN TAKEN DOWN...
it's an emergency!

ここに住んでる奴
一生独身
一生独身
WOW, THEY BROKE THE BOARD INTO PIECES.
I WONDER IF THEY BROUGHT A HAMMER JUST TO TAKE OUT THE NAILS.
THEY MUST'VE BEEN REALLY ANGRY.
Ha ha ha...

SHIRO...
STARTING TONIGHT, YOU'RE SLEEPING OUT HERE
USA, YOU CAN USE YOUR VIRGIN POWER TO SUPPORT HIM
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY
GRAB
?!
RUSTLE
TSK...

AAAH!
THANKS FOR ALL THE DRAWINGS.
WAIT, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOU'LL PAY FOR ALL THE GRAFFITI!
THANK YOU?
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
NO, WAIT!
SHIRO-KUN, QUIET. YOU ALREADY SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
SHIRO! THE ROPE!
Do you need this, too?
LET GO!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
AH!
PUSH
THUD

SWIGH
Ouch.
SUMIKO-SAN!
OH...
WHACK
How dare you do that to Sumiko-san?
Now! Get him!
Raarr!
WHUP
Thick Hardcover Book
SENPAI'S AMAZING...
And she really is rough with her books!
ARGH!

DAMN IT!
LET ME GO!
My masterpiece...
AT LEAST TIE ME UP NORMALLY!
YEAH, YEAH. SHUT UP.
A MIDDLE SCHOOL THIRD-YEAR STUDENT.
SAKUMA NORIHIRO-KUN.
I'LL TAKE A PHOTO TO COMMEMORATE CATCHING THE CULPRIT.
WHY ARE YOU TAKING IT FROM OVER THERE?
SWIP
SWIPE!

WHAT? YOU WANT YOUR FACE ALL OVER THE INTERNET?
I'M SORRY FOR WRITING YOU'D BE SINGLE FOR LIFE!
I'M GOING TO CASUALLY INCLUDE HIS PERSONAL INFORMATION.
GO ON AND SWIM FREELY THROUGH THE OCEAN OF THE WEB.
Don't you dare!
MAYUMI-SAN, CALM DOWN!
SHUT UP! I ESPECIALLY HATE HOW ACCURATE HE IS!
Like spreading his information online.
BUT THAT'S A CRIME!
HE'S RIGHT. LET'S SETTLE FOR PLASTERING HIS PICTURE ON HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL'S FRONT GATE.
Baah!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
NOW'S AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOU.
...
You're in your third year of middle school.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW I FEEL!
IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN!
If...

I WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE MY GRADES WEREN'T IMPROVING...
AAAH!
...AS MUCH AS I'D HOPED!
My school report's not that good, but for some reason I have a B.
WAIT! I'M SORRY!

I COLLECTED THE TOOLS OF HIS CRIME.
YOU'RE RIGHT. SINCE I DON'T UNDERSTAND, I'LL CALL THE POLICE
AND YOUR SCHOOL.

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE MARKERS,
SA-KUMA-KUN.
YOU USED CRAYONS.
YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IS MISDIRECTED.
It'd be bad if you had to paint over it.
YOU CAN'T ERASE MARKER INK FROM STUCCO...
SOMEDAY YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE IN SO MUCH PAIN NOW.
TRY NOT TO LET YOURSELF GO UNTIL THEN.
...
I KNEW IT.
WHAT?
IT'S EASY TO FALL INTO A SLUMP DURING AUTUMN.
I'VE EXPERIENCED IT, TOO.
R-REALLY...
BUT NOW I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER
THE PAIN I EXPERIENCED.
Not bad, huh?

SHIRO-KUN, THIS ROPE...
...
EX-CUSE ME!
THAT'S NOT AN EXCUSE.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S WORRIED, AND IT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO INCONVENIENCE ANYONE ELSE.
THINK IT OVER, YOU IDIOT.
I RAN INTO YOU EARLIER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...
SMILE
I'M FINE.
FLICK
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER.
ISN'T THIS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNI-TY FOR A SKETCHING CONTEST?
WHY NOW?!
I'll make you a drawing board, Sakuma-kun.
You can turn him down.
I'M REALLY...
...SORRY...

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LAUGH NOW?
•REC
What am I looking at?
I bet we could sell the video.
It's a beautiful image, but it looks like they're discussing how to cook Sakuma.
PFFFT

IS SAKUMA-KUN BEGINNING TO CLEAN THE KAWAI COMPLEX TODAY?
YEAH. SAKUMA'S PARENTS SAID IT WASN'T ENOUGH, BUT...
WHEN HIS PARENTS SHOWED UP AFTER WRECKING HIS FACE AND MADE HIM GROVEL WITH THEM..
HIS FACE WAS IN SHAM-BLES...
Must've taken courage to confess to those par-ents.

YOUR BOOK ATTACK WAS AMAZING, THOUGH.
BUT YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL. IT'D BE DAN-GEROUS IF HE ATTACKED YOU BACK.
I DON'T DO IT ALL THE TIME.
Oh.
I KNOW. WHEN-EVER YOU ACT...
...IT'S TO HELP SOME-ONE.

I THINK IT'S COOL...
S-STOP!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
YOU ALWAYS EXAGGERATE.
USA-KUN...
THAT'S WHY WEIRDOS LIKE YOU SO MUCH.
Freak Show...
SENPAI, ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?
DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF?
Book Attack!
I'M SORRY
HEY.
HE'S AT IT.
SCRUB
SCRUB
USA-SENPA...
HEY.

Those uniforms.
YOU GUYS GO TO NORTH HIGH?!
YEAH?
WHAT?
TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!
HOW WAS THE EXAM?!
WOW, WAY TO GO, SENPAI!
NORTH HIGH'S MY FIRST CHOICE!
Freak Show...
CHAPTER 2/END

SAKUMA-KUN'S MISTAKE
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!
MY IDIOT SON DEEPLY INCONVENIENCED YOU...
IF YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED...
PLEASE HIT ME INSTEAD...
THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU APOLOGIZE, TOO!
ゴン
BOW
NO, IT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.
FATHER.
NO, HE'S DOING IT FOR HIMSELF.
SHIRO-SAN'S DOING THIS FOR ME...!

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 12

HEY, USA-KUN, CAN I SUBMIT AN IDOL APPLICATION FOR YOU?
WHY?
BECAUSE I WANT TO SAY, "I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE OF MY FRIEND, BUT THEY CHOSE ME."
THAT'LL NEVER WORK, SINCE I'LL SAY, "MY FRIEND SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION FOR ME."

CHAPTER 3
REACH
GULP
S...
SENPAI!
NOT THERE.
DON'T...
AH!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? JUST TOUCH IT A LITTLE.
DO IT, DO IT.

CRASH
OH, NO.
YEAH!
ONE MORE TIME!
IT'S SO LATE ALREADY.
THE SECOND DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT IS OVER.
She's tired with you, Mayuzumi-san.
RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE PRETTY BAD AT THIS.
MAYBE YOU'RE TOO TENSE BECAUSE YOU'RE SO CAREFUL.
I can be pretty rough.
RIT-CHAN LOSES.

TWO DAYS EARLIER
I'M SO BORED.
Nothing good's on TV.
THEY SAY THE NIGHTS OF AUTUMN ARE LONG.
LET'S PLAY JENGA!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST PLAYED JENGA.
Huh...
THE PREVIOUS RESIDENT LEFT IT BEHIND.
I'M QUIETLY SURPRISED BY YOUR DECENT SUGGESTION.
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED JENKKA?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
There's a lot of people.

PLAY WITH US, RIT-CHAN!
OKAY.
CLANG!
WHY DON'T WE BET SOME-THING?
LIKE A PUNISH-MENT GAME?
It'll make it more interesting.
SAYAKA-CHAN, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS AT NIGHT FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, DO YOU?
I'm planning on keeping a low profile for a while.
OKAY, THEN!
LET THE FOURTH KAWAI COMPLEX AUTUMN GAME TOURNAMENT BEGIN!
WHY FOURTH?
FIRST, COME WITH ME. I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU DIDN'T ASK IF I HAVE PLANS.
30 MIN-UTES LATER
IT REALLY IS THE FOURTH TIME.
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

WE'VE DONE IT EVERY YEAR SINCE I MOVED IN.
SHIRO-SAN'S BEEN HERE FOUR YEARS?
THAT'S SURPRISINGLY SHORT...
A LOT OF OUR RESIDENTS LIKED BOARD AND TABLE GAMES.
Oh!
MA-BUCHI-SAN!
MAYUMI-SAN'S BEEN HERE THREE YEARS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND ONE.
WE PLAYED THE GAME OF LIFE THEN.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE MABUCHI-SAN LEFT? TIME FLIES.
SAYAKA-SAN'S BEEN HERE TWO YEARS.
SINCE THIS MOVED IN AFTER HIM, IN COMPARISON HE SEEMS LIKE A REALLY GOOD PERSON.
WHY DIDN'T YOU PARTICIPATE LAST YEAR?
BECAUSE I HAD A BOYFRIEND. YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
You stayed at your boyfriend's place.
OH, RIGHT. YOU SAID YOU WERE COUNTING DOWN THE SECONDS TO MARRIAGE AND DIDN'T COME BACK FOR A LONG TIME.
YOUR SECONDS ARE SO LONG. IS IT YOUR NEW ANTI-AGING TECHNIQUE?
SENPAI'S BEEN HERE ONE YEAR...
I didn't know you very well.
RIT-CHAN HAD JUST MOVED IN LAST YEAR AND WOULDN'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM.

I WONDER WHAT THAT YEAR WAS LIKE FOR SENPAI.
WE PLAYED GAMES FIVE NIGHTS IN A ROW.
LAST PLACE CLEANS THE STORAGE ROOM IN THE YARD
That place that's totally full of bugs!!
AND TREATS SUMIKO-SAN TO SOME-THING.
To thank her for every-thing!
FIRST PLACE GETS TO ASK ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE KAWAI COMPLEX FOR SOMETHING.
WHAT?
I WANT THAT!
YEAH! GOT IT!
IT'S NO SURPRISE YOU'RE GOOD AT GETTING IT YOURSELF.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HMM
THIS ONE SHOULD BE GOOD.
CRASH
WHOA!

YOU CHOOSE CARELESSLY AT FIRST GLANCE.
MAYBE YOUR RECKLESS AND THOUGHTLESS ACTIONS ARE THE REASON YOU ALWAYS RUIN YOURSELF.
SAVVY
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT JENGA, RIGHT?

MAYUMI-SAN LOST AGAIN.
DAMN IT. WHY?

ONE MORE TIME!
OKAY, STACK IT BACK UP.
SHOULD YOU BE PULLING THEM IN AND OUT LIKE THAT?
Different pieces.
WHAT?
SWAP
SWAP
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

DO I HAVE TO PULL IT OUT ONCE I TOUCH IT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T PUMP IT TOO MUCH.
OKAY...
I'LL TRY TO PULL THE ONES I TOUCH...
WHAT'S WRONG, USA-KUN?
NOTHING'S WRONG.
WE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE THIRD DAY.
SHIRO-KUN AND I ARE TIED FOR FIRST WITH NO LOSSES.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT THIS GAME.
Sayaka XXX
Usa
Shiro
Sumiko XXXX

I DON'T WANNA DO WHATEVER SAYAKA ASKS.
SHE'S RIGHT.
Shiro would be better.
IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME WHEN YOU'RE A GROWN MAN.
I WAS OBSESSED WITH JENGA LAST YEAR AND PLAYED IT ALL THE TIME!
BY THE WAY, MAYUMI-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GETTING A PET?
Oh.
OUR CONVER-SATION FROM THE OTHER DAY?
I THINK I WANT TO GET A RABBIT.
JUMP
ALL RIGHT!
BUT I TOLD YOU THAT WHEN I ACTUALLY WENT TO LOOK AT THEM, I WASN'T FEELING IT.
Crash
!?

人生ゲー
DX
人生ゲ
DX
WE HAVE OTHELLO
AND THE GAME OF LIFE.
Not for the four-
moment.
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY SOMETHING ELSE?
I'M GETTING BORED OF THIS.
THE FOURTH DAY
Tied for Last
The is difficult.
Last
I'M NOT PLAYING THE GAME OF LIFE!
AND CONGRATULATORY GIFTS ONLY TO BE SHOCKED BY HOW DIFFERENT IT IS FROM MY REALITY!
I'M NOT GONNA GET EXCITED OVER A BUNCH OF KIDS
I ALREADY EXPERI-ENCED THAT FUTILITY TWO YEARS AGO! NOW—
OKAY, CALM DOWN!
CHESS!
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H

I WANNA PLAY.
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
I'm probably bad at it.
ME, NEITHER.
I WANT TO PLAY...
I'm curious.
CHESS CAME UP IN THE BOOK I WAS READING THE OTHER DAY...
THOSE ARE THE BASIC RULES.
NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE IT A TRY!
THEN I'LL TEACH YOU!
I'M PRETTY GOOD. I WAS OBSESSED LAST YEAR.
IT'S SO WONDERFUL (ETC.).
I LOST!
GO EASY ON ME.
Beginner Battle
I WON EARLIER, THOUGH.
CHECKMATE...
THIS IS FUN.
LET'S PLAY AGAIN, SENPAI!

OKAY...
SIGN LIBRARY
SENPAI.
LIBRARY DUTY?
YEAH!
THAT'S A LIE.
USUALLY YOU'RE SITTING IN YOUR SEAT.
I THOUGHT I'D GO HOME TODAY...
WHAT?
I SHOULD'VE GONE HOME.
I TOLD HER I'M ON LIBRARY DUTY.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE LATE?
HUH?
N-NO, I'LL BE FINISHED SOON.
HUH...
Bye.

That really was quick.
I'm finished
WHAT?
HUH?
WHAT?
...
そわ…
FIDGET
THAT, HUH.
UM,
I HAD FUN PLAYING CHESS YESTERDAY.
ちら
GLANCE
SHUFFLE

ちら…
TEMPTED
WANNA PLAY?
…
I'M SO GLAD MAYUMI-SAN'S NOT HERE!
?
YEAH! YES! LET'S PLAY! BUT GIVE ME A MINUTE! I'M CURRENTLY PRAYING TO MY WILD LOCAL GOD FOR TRANQUILITY AND VICTORY!
CHECK-MATE!
THUNK
トン!

LONG LIVE THE KAWAI COMPLEX FALL FESTIVAL!

FIVE CONSEC-UTIVE LOSSES.
CHECK-MATE...
SENPAI REALLY HATES TO LOSE.
DO YOU WANT A HANDI-CAP?
I DON'T NEED ONE.
I have some experi-ence with Shogi.
ONE MORE TIME.
WHY DON'T WE PLAY JENGA?
ONE MORE TIME.
I BET SHE'D BE PISSED IF I LOST ON PUR-POSE...
Let's play, then.
PLEASE WIN THE NEXT GAME.
SHUT UP.

CHECK-MATE...
6
!!
STARE
...
THAT WAS QUICK.
THIS ISN'T EASY TO SAY...
AM I WRONG?
BUT IN MY COUNTRY THE QUEEN RECENTLY BECAME THE HEAD OF STATE.
DON'T MAKE UP NEW RULES.
YOUR KNIGHT WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY FOR BEING THE IDIOT WHO KILLED THE FALSE KING.
HOW SELFISH.
I GUESS THAT'S A HANDI-CAP..
OKAY, THEN. GO EASY ON ME, QUEEN-DOM.
My knight...

CHECK-MATE...
17
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
OH.
YOUR COUNTRY'S SITUATION IS SO UNSTABLE.
A hero emerged from the pawns.
A REVOLUTION OCCURRED.
NO MORE!
WE'RE BACK...

HOW UNUSUAL.
They're arguing.
YOUR COUNTRY CAN'T AFFORD TO GO TO WAR WITH ANOTHER RIGHT NOW!
You should focus on your internal politics...
IT'S OKAY! THE KING AND QUEEN ARE WORKING TOGETHER NOW!
They're already working together!

IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE USA-KUN MOVED IN.

THEY'VE GROWN SO CLOSE.
thee hee hee
ON THE FINAL NIGHT...
CRASH

LAST PLACE
FIRST PLACE
FOURTH KAWAII COMPLEX AUTUMN GAME TOURNAMENT
Eh...?
I GUESS... I WANT TO BE BULLIED...
WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK FOR?
I don't mind treating Sumiko-san.
Ugh...
I HAVE TO CLEAN THE STORAGE CLOSET...
Ooo

Forced to help.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY AM I CLEANING THE STORAGE CLOSET?
I won.
CHAPTER 3/END

CHAPTER 4

WHERE ARE THE KEROSINE CANS?
JUMP
WHA... HOW TERRIFYING!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TOTALLY NORMAL THING TO SAY ON AN AUTUMN NIGHT, YOU'RE TERRIFYING!
WOW, HOW LAME.
KEEPING AN EXCHANGE DIARY IN HIGH SCHOOL IS SO LAME.
IT'S NOT AN EX-CHANGE DIARY!
That's right!
THEY'RE NOTES AND REVIEWS ON BOOKS.
AND SHE TEACHES ME WORDS I DON'T KNOW...

LIKE "FIXED FITTING" AND "STANDING OVATION"?
SORRY, VIRGIN EARS, BUT THOSE ARE WHOLESOME WORDS.
ARE YOU GONNA WATCH MY REACTION AND BE ALL, "WHAT? I THOUGHT THEY MEANT SOMETHING ELSE"? GROSS STAY AWAY FROM ME. I'LL BURN YOU.
Like an alien.
THE ONLY THING I'M DISAPPOINTED IN IS YOU.
SENPAI MIGHT HATE IT ENOUGH TO QUIT.
DAMN IT. IF SHE BOTHERS US TOO MUCH...
BESIDES, IT'S SO LAME TO INTERACT LIKE THAT IF YOU WERE BORN AFTER THE 90S.
I wanna burn it with kerosine.
RIT-CHAN'S SO HAPPY ABOUT IT, TOO.
SHE WAS GOING, "MM."
I-I'M NOT HAPPY...
Please stop.
...
MAYUMI-SAN...

HAVE YOU GAINED WEIGHT?
むちっ
PLUMP
And in sweaters
SOMETIMES I LOOK FAT FROM BELOW.

I'M BACK.
HUH?
MAYUMI-SAN, HAVE YOU GAINED WEIGHT?
アイ
ゆうみ
キィエエエ!
AAAAHHH
Urgh!
Just this part is turn of the century!
NO, YOU'RE DEFINITE-LY...
SHUT UP! EVERYONE LOOKS FAT FROM A LOW ANGLE!
WANT ME TO LOOK AT YOU FROM BELOW, TOO?
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THE DEVIL HIMSELF?

...AND STAYING UP ALL NIGHT WHILE EATING AND DRINKING TOO MUCH.
YOU'VE BEEN OBSESSED WITH FOREIGN DRAMAS...

BAG: CHESTNUT SPECIAL DANISH
They're so good. Since they're small, I can easily eat one or two.
I'M NOT OVEREATING. I JUST HAD A LITTLE BREAD...
DON'T TOUCH ME.
PAT PAT PAT
IT'S NO WONDER YOU ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
Nutrition Facts (per roll)
Energy 1000 kcal
Carbohydrates 70.2g
Protein 10.8g
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
SCREECH!
Woo hoo! 1,000 calorie attack!
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND LABOR SHOULD START HERE WITH PREVENTING OBESITY!

DAMN IT... WHEN I WAS A STUDENT,
I NEVER GOT FAT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ATE.
むに
SQUEEZE
I don't mind since it makes you nice to the touch.
Stay away from me.
YOU GET FAT SO EASILY, MAYUMI-SAN. YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
IN HIGH SCHOOL, I'D BUY A MC*ONALD'S MEAL ON THE WAY HOME
AND STILL FINISH DINNER AND HAVE DESSERT.
BUT EVERYONE WAS SO JEALOUS BECAUSE I STAYED THIN...
IT'S TRUE WHEN THEY SAY TEN YEARS CAN BRING A LOT OF CHANGES.
RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE STILL MAD, AREN'T YOU?

I SAW A PICTURE OF MAYUMI-CHAN
Stop attaching me with expressions.
Time flies, doesn't it.
IN HIGH SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY.
That photo.
SHE WAS SO CUTE.
Really? I wanna see.

OH, YEAH...
IT TURNED UP WHILE I WAS CLEANING MY ROOM.
IT MIGHT'VE DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE.

NOT A SINGLE CREASE.
IT TURNED UP PRETTY QUICKLY FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT'VE DISAP-PEARED...
SHE LOOKS SO SELF-SATISFIED...
Even the corners of her eyes.
SHE IS CUTE...
MY FRIENDS MADE ME PARTICIPATE IN THIS BEAUTY CONTEST.
BOYS CONFESSED THEIR FEELINGS TO ME ALL THE TIME. I WAS WORRIED IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS TO BE FRIENDS.
I EVEN APPEARED IN MAGA-ZINES.
People wouldn't stop hitting on me.
BUT...
WHY DO I HEAR THE BEGINNING OF THE TALE OF THE HEIKE IN MY HEAD?
WRITING THE KNELL OF THE BELLS AT THE GION TEMPLE
ECHOES THE IMPERMANENCE OF ALL THINGS
THE COLOR OF THE FLOWERS ON ITS DOUBLE-TRUNKED TREE
REVEALS THE TRUTH THAT TO FLOURISH IS TO FALL
HE WHO IS PROUD IS NOT SO FOR LONG

OH.
SHE'S CUTE, TOO.
MANAMI?
HUH?
WELL, YEAH...
well...
WE WERE FRIENDS.
WERE YOU NOT FRIENDS?
WE HAD THE SAME TASTE IN MEN.
OH, SHIT. THIS SMELLS LIKE A LANDMINE.
THIS GIRL HAS A FETISH FOR GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS, TOO?
but she seems so pure. How exciting!
I'LL BURN AND BUTCHER YOU.
I don't get it.
WE BOTH LIKED THE SAME MEN, BUT MOST OF THE GUYS SHE BEAT ME TO ENDED UP BEING GOOD...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE A FAILURE FETISH.
I'LL BURN YOU, TOO.
PANT
PANT

THINGS WILL GET BAD IF WE STAY ON THIS SUBJECT
WERE YOU IN ANY CLUBS?
WE WERE SO EXCITED SINCE MY FIRST BOYFRIEND AKIRA SEEMED NICE...
THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING STARTED GOING WRONG...
TENNIS.
REALLY?
I QUIT BEFORE I GRADUATED, THOUGH
THE MAN SLUT COACH MET BOBBY.
Ah, the Mister Bitt you told us about.
SINGLE
AN UNEXPECTED LANDMINE.

Um...
OH, I KNOW! YOU WERE IN THE BEAUTY CONTEST, RIGHT?
HOW'D THAT TURN OUT?
I WAS THE RUNNER UP.
Wow!
THAT'S AMAZING.
MANAMI WON.
GO AHEAD AND LOOK AT HOW I FELT WHEN I HAD TO HEAR FROM MANAMI THAT MY BOYFRIEND AT THE TIME WAS SECRETLY HITTING ON HER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I DON'T THINK I'LL MAKE IT OUT OF THIS MINEFIELD IN ONE PIECE.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ALWAYS LOST TO YOUR RIVAL.
DID SHE GET MARRIED FIRST, TOO?
I didn't lose.
I DON'T THINK SHE DID...
WE DON'T TALK ANYMORE.

BUT DESPITE EVERY-THING, YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF, RIGHT?
WELL... YEAH.
I DID ALL KINDS OF STUFF WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY.
I DID STUPID STUFF AND LAUGHED ABOUT IT.
I LOVED PASSION-ATELY.
I NEVER THOUGHT TEN YEARS FROM THEN...
...I'D BE REMEMBERING IT LIKE THIS.
MAYUMI-SAN...

RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE STILL MAD, AREN'T YOU?
WHEN YOU LOOK DOWN, YOUR CHIN...
OKAY.
LET'S GO, SHIRO!
I'M GOING JOGGING.
A hot woman like me shouldn't be out by herself at night.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHAT?

See you later!
いってきまーす!
...
NOTHING GETS HER DOWN.
ttee hee
SO MY HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE.
THEN I'LL GET A GOOD MAN AND ENJOY THE SHIT OUT OF MY LIFE
I'LL DROP THIS FAT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
ONE HOUR LATER
HEY.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
I'M BACK.

MY LEGS HURT SINCE I HAVEN'T RUN LATELY.
DIETING'S NOT EASY.
FOR THE PERSON BELOW YOU.
I didn't want him to hold me, so I rode on his shoulders.
That always looks fun.
I WANT SOMETHING SWEET NOW.
It's the secondary effect of those chestnut danishes.
AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE URGE...
I don't even like it that much.
Good evening!
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU SO LATE! IT'S SAKUMA!
I'M SO GLAD MY PRACTICE TEST AT CRAM SCHOOL SAID I'D MAKE IT INTO NORTH HIGH!
IT'S THANKS TO THE ADVICE I GOT FROM USA-SENPAI AND SHIRO-SAN!
I BROUGHT SOME CHESTNUT YOKAN TO THANK YOU!
和菓子おくまや
(KUMAYA JAPANESE CANDIES)

AAAH!
I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU.
I'M SURE YOU AND YOUR INTERVIEWER WILL HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
"GREATEST MASTERPIECE OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL'S TALENTED ARTIST SAKUMA-KUN!"
I'LL SEND THIS PHOTO I TOOK OF THE WALL TO NORTH HIGH ALONG WITH THE MESSAGE,
what an original sun and cloud.
CONGRATULATIONS, SAKUMA-KUN!
WHAT? YOU THINK I'D LET THE BOYS EAT IT THEMSELVES? YOU "BLEEP" MARK FETISHIST.
I DIDN'T BRING THEM FOR YOU.
Loves Japanese sweets
WHY WOULD YOU BRING THAT WHEN I'M ON A DIET?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD SOMEONE USE THE TERM "SLY FOX" SERIOUSLY..
PANT PANT
Now, now...
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT LIVING WITH THESE SLY FOXES!
I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
Except for Sumiko-san.

I'M TIRED.
MAYUMI-SAN.
ARE YOU NOT GOING OUT TODAY?
It worked before.
I JUST CAN'T DO IT IF I'M NOT AT WIT'S END.
I'M SURE I'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL IF I CONTROL MYSELF.
It's only the third day!
IT'S COLD. I DON'T FEEL MOTIVAT-ED...
PHONE: KAZUMI
KRRRR
HEY.
MY FRIEND'S CALLING ME.
SHUT UP, YOU SLY FOX.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE NOT AT WIT'S END.
It's been a while.
MAYUMI, ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING SATURDAY?
NO.
WANNA GO DRINKING?
YEAH!
IT'S OKAY IF SHE FINDS OUT I'M FAT.

I MET SOMEONE I HADN'T SEEN IN FOREVER THE OTHER DAY.
DO YOU REMEMBER MANAMI?
WE DECIDED TO GO DRINKING TOGETHER.
WE'LL INVITE AKIRA AND SEIJI, TOO.
IT'LL BE LIKE A LITTLE REUNION.
EVERYONE'S SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU.
BYE.
BOOP
BOOP

Good evening.
WHAT?!
SHIT! WE'RE GOING RUNNING, SHIRO!
SH-
SHIRO-SAN.
MY GRANDMA MADE TOO MANY, SO I BROUGHT YOU SOME.
THESE OHAGIS ARE AMAZING!
I told you
they're not for you!
Shut up, you *BLEEP* marker!!
Quit eating them, you evil woman!
Subjunctive mood: the use of the auxiliary verb of a clause of a sentence to indicate actions, events, or states that are hypothetical, desired, necessary, possible, or likely, rather than actual.
GRRW
CHAPTER 4/END

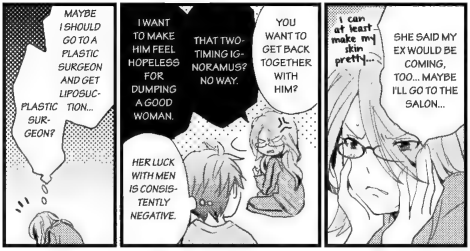
CHAPTER 5

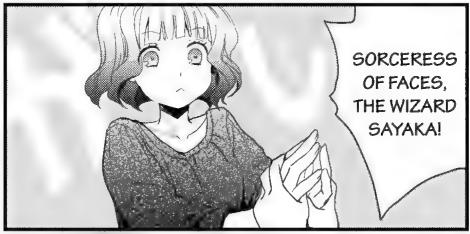
THREE MORE DAYS UNTIL...
...MY LITTLE REUNION...
PLUMP
SIX DIVIDED BY THREE IS TWO...
I JUST HAVE TO LOSE TWO KILOGRAMS A DAY!
I'M SIX KILOGRAMS OVER MY IDEAL WEIGHT...

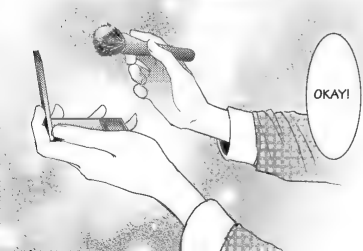
EVEN IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HOLD BACK A LITTLE...
And those are mine...
SAKUMA-KUN'S OHAGIS ARE SO GOOD.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
DON'T SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
BUT YOU JUST DID IN THE PANEL ABOVE.
STARTING TOMORROW I'M FASTING!
THIS IS MY LAST MEAL!
YOU'D JUST LOOK AMUSINGLY MISERABLE IF YOU WERE HAGGARD AND FAT.
Thank you for the advice that obviously comes from personal experience.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WON'T LOSE WEIGHT FROM FASTING RIGHT AWAY ANYWAY.
FASTING ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR BODY!
I'll eat this tomorrow...
I won't allow it!

YOU'LL BE A MODEL SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE WOMAN!
IF YOU GO DRINKING LIKE THAT, YOU'LL BE WOLFING THINGS DOWN IN MORE THAN ONE WAY.
YOU'RE ALREADY STARV-ING...
IT'S ALL THE MORE PATHETIC SINCE MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS WERE SO BRILLIANTLY CAREFREE...
NOT ONLY AM I TOTALLY SINGLE, BUT I'M ALSO FAT.
STRAIN
I'M SURE BOYFRIENDS AND MARRIAGE WILL COME UP.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL SAY...
...WHY DON'T YOU MAKE AN EXCUSE NOT TO GO?
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED...
PUSH
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I DON'T WANT THEM TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T GO!
Besides, I want to see them.
She's missing the point.
THERE'S A CHANCE MY GIRL FRIENDS WILL TALK ABOUT ME!
PROBABILITY THAT GIRLS WHO ARE ONLY KIND OF CLOSE WILL BADMOUTH EACH OTHER WHEN THEY'RE NOT THERE: 87%. (ACCORDING TO MAYU'S RESEARCH)
JUST HOW TERRIBLE ARE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?
IN MAYUMI-SAN'S CASE, JUST MENTIONING THE FACTS SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE BADMOUTHING HER.
1. Unemployed and doesn't even have a boyfriend
2. Still has terrible luck with men.
3. Suddenly got rich
WHY DON'T YOU PRETEND SHIRO-KUN IS YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WHAT?
You'd even have the right to hit him when you want.
What an exciting night.
NOW PEOPLE WILL SAY EVEN MORE SHIT ABOUT ME.
4. Boyfriend is a NEET
5. Boyfriend is a pervert
6. Boyfriend is a masochist
7. Boyfriend is often questioned by the police


MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO A PLASTIC SURGEON AND GET LIPOSUCTION...
PLASTIC SURGEON?
I WANT TO MAKE HIM FEEL HOPELESS FOR DUMPING A GOOD WOMAN.
THAT TWO-TIMING IGNORAMUS? NO WAY.
YOU WANT TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM?
HER LUCK WITH MEN IS CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE.
I can at least make my skin pretty...
SHE SAID MY EX WOULD BE COMING, TOO... MAYBE I'LL GO TO THE SALON...


SORCERESS OF FACES, THE WIZARD SAYAKA!


OKAY!

Shading here.
Highlights here.
Heavy eye makeup to draw attention.
Covering edge of face with hair.
AS PROMISED, I'LL MAKE YOU STAND IN LINE FOR LIMITED EDITION CHRISTMAS CANDIES AND THE NEW YEAR'S BRAND GRAB BAG.
I don't believe it♡
FOR SOME REASON I FEEL LIKE I'LL BE STANDING IN LINE FOR THOSE.
Makeup is terrifying.
"DON'T LOOK DOWN; IT MAKES YOU LOOK FAT!"
"PULL IN YOUR NECK! STAND UP STRAIGHT!"
welcome

Slimming v-neck
THAT WAS CLOSE. I CAN'T LOOK DOWN.
MAYUMI.
MAYUMI!!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
AKIRA...
EX-BOY-FRIEND FIRST BOY-FRIEND
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GRATEFUL TO SAYAKA...
what are you saying?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
I MEAN... YOU LOOK WAY SEXIER, THOUGH.

HEY,
WHERE'S MANAMI?
SHE HAD SOME WORK COME IN TODAY...
SORRY I'M LATE!
Speak of the devil.
MANAMI!
WORK RAN LATE.
Good work.
SHE USED TO BE SO CUTE AND CUDDLY WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS.
WHAT DO YOU DO?
SALES.

I THOUGHT SHE'D GONE THE SAME WAY AS ME...
THAT'S AMAZING.
BUT DON'T YOU WORK FOR XX COMPANY?
OH, COME ON.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SHE'S CHIEF OF SALES.
YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
SO COOL.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST...
Sexy and cute.
THAT'S RIGHT. WE WERE CLOSE.
BA-BUMP
I'VE BEEN SO WEIRDLY ANTAGONISTIC...
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN? I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.
MAYUMI, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
...TOWARDS SOMEONE THIS HAPPY TO SEE ME.
...

MAYUMI, HAVE YOU...
...GAINED SOME WEIGHT?
JUST...
JUST A LITTLE.
REALLY?
YOU LOOK BETTER THIS WAY.
YOU SEEM LIKE A REAL WOMAN.
YOU'RE AS SKINNY AS EVER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU LOOK GOOD IN SKINNY SHIRTS.
THEY'RE A LITTLE TOO SMALL FOR ME...
GIGGLE
ふふ
ふふ
ふふ

NOW THAT EVERYONE'S HERE, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT!
I GOT ENGAGED.
CONGRATULATIONS!
I'M SENDING OUT INVITATIONS NEXT MONTH.
WHEN'S THE CEREMONY?
SPRING
SOMEONE ALREADY
BROUGHT UP AN UNPLEASANT SUBJECT.
WE'RE ALREADY THAT AGE
BUT, IT'S A DELICATE SUBJECT
I SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING—
Nothing good ever happens to me.
MAYUMI AND MANAMI ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO AREN'T MARRIED, HUH?
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?

BITE HIS TONGUE OFF WHEN YOU KISS HIM.
OH, BUT IT'S NORMAL TO MARRY LATE NOW.
ON AVERAGE PEOPLE GET MARRIED AT 28, RIGHT?
YOU'RE ALREADY RAISING THE AVERAGE!
はは HA HA
TO MY FIRST-YEAR SELF WHO CHOSE THIS GUY FOR MY FIRST BOY-FRIEND...
I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU'D GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY.
YOU WERE SO POPULAR IN HIGH SCHOOL. I'M SURPRISED.
BITE OFF HIS PRI-VATES, TOO.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
EVERYONE GETS MARRIED IN THEIR OWN TIME.
ANY-WAY...
ACCORDING TO THE DATA RELEASED THIS YEAR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND LABOR, IT'S 29.
SHE LOOKED IT UP...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, YOU IDIOT!
No way.
COME ON. I WAS JOKING.
PEOPLE WILL AVOID YOU IF YOU'RE COLD.
AND, MANAMI, YOU'LL MAKE MEN FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IF YOU WORK SO HARD.
WOMEN WHO ARE TOO SUCCESSFUL MAKE MEN RUN THE OTHER WAY.
SHUT UP.
HEY.
I'M JUST SAYING—

JUMP
BANG
I WON'T LET THIS...
LET'S DRINK, MANAMI.

You're unbelievable.
I was joking.
What, I'm being inconsiderate?
LET'S DRINK TO FINDING A GOOD MAN WHO'S NOT INCONSIDERATE LIKE HIM.
HOW ABOUT THE ONE WHO DRINKS MORE FINDS HAPPINESS FIRST?
...MAKE ME LOOK DOWN.
YOU WON'T BEAT ME.
THERE'S MY FAT, TOO
SERI-OUSLY?!
IF YOU BEAT ME, I'LL SET UP A MIXER WITH SOME OF MY ELITE CLIENTS.
BRING IT ON.

I'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
REST ROOM
BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET...
LISTEN, MAYUMI.
WHAT?
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIED BY NOW.
A LOT HAPPENED... AND I CALLED MY WEDDING OFF!
THE THING THAT IDIOT SAID WAS ONE OF THE REASONS.
THAT'S WHY I...

I WISH I COULD SAY I WAS ENGAGED, BUT HAD TO CALL IT OFF.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO COMFORT ME.
ACTUALLY, I...
I...
I'VE HEARD ALL KINDS OF CONSOLATIONS SINCE THIS HAPPENED.
ぶっ
FFFFFH HH HH HH HH
あはは
はは
B-BUT
WHY NOT?
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
I'M OVER IT.
LET'S DRINK!
THOUGH I WOULD'VE CLOCKED YOU IF IT WERE RIGHT AFTER MY ENGAGEMENT WAS CALLED OFF.

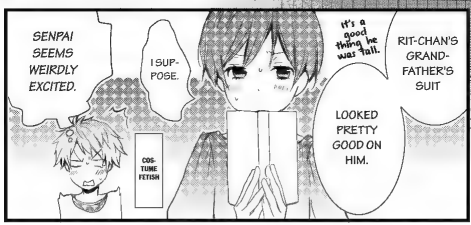
YOU TWO SHOULD STOP.
WE'RE FINE.
Yeah.
You're getting married. Shut up.
Eri's taking Manami home so she'll be fine.
CAN YOU MAKE IT HOME, YOURSELF?
Kazuma, can you make it home, you bitch.
I'LL BE FINE. I JUST CALLED SOMEONE.
WHAT?
CALLED WHO?
OH.
MANAMI PASSED OUT!
YEAH, MIXER!
Sigh
WE SHOULD WRAP IT UP.
Thank you!
KEEP IT TOGETHER, YOU TWO.
WE'LL BE FINE.

I'LL TAKE YOU HOME, MAYUMI.
GRAB
WE'RE GOING THE SAME WAY
OH!
WHAT?! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP
I'LL PAY FOR YOUR TAXI TO MAKE UP FOR EARLIER.
LET GO
I FINALLY FOUND YOU
WHAT?
WHO ARE YOU?

YOU LOOK GROSS!
Pu-
Bonk
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Whoa.
...
SHIRO?
YOU TOLD ME TO DRESS NICE.
SHUT UP! DON'T TALK BACK!
YOU'RE HAM-MERED.
OH, FINE.
UM...
Heave ho.
Gawk
IF HE'S NOT YOUR BOY-FRIEND, WHY DID HE COME GET YOU...
ARE YOU MAYUMI'S BOYFRIEND?
OF COURSE NOT!!

BECAUSE MAYUMI-SAN
TOLD ME TO COME.
WH-
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT.
TRS...
...
I CHANGED MY MIND.
BEEP
LOL
I'M CANCELLING THE MIXER.
And sending to Mayumi.

Styling by Sayaka
I'M SO NICE FOR DRESSING HIM LIKE THAT AFTER HE PUT ON A SHORT COAT
WITH EVERY INTENTION OF GETTING BEAT UP.
SHIRO? COME GET ME.
I'LL BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOU IF YOU DON'T COME DRESSED PROPERLY.
BOOP BOOP BOOP
HUH?
MAYUMI-SA..
DO YOU THINK THEY FOUND EACH OTHER ALL RIGHT?



CHAPTER 5/END

IT'S TOO CRUEL...
IT'S NOTHING TO GET SO DEPRESSED ABOUT...
BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING IT.
USA'S DISCUSSING HIS CONCERNS WITH RIT-CHAN?
Hmm...
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT COULDN'T BE HELPED?
DON'T SAY THAT. I...
I LIKED HER...
!!?
TEAR
I LOVED...
LOVE?!
HE USED DISCUSSING HIS CONCERNS AS A PRETEXT TO CONFESS TO HER IN TEARS?
I'D BETTER BREAK THIS UP, JUST IN CASE IT WORKS.
Whaaat?!

I LOVED ARLENE...
WHO'S THAT?

CHAPTER 6

...HAVE YOU ACTUALLY BEEN TALKING ABOUT BOOKS?
HOW MANY TIMES...
伯爵の余罪(下)
ISN'T IT EVEN QUIETLY GAINING POPULARITY IN YOUR CLASS, RIT-CHAN?
I CAN'T BELIEVE USA-KUN GOT SO INTO IT HE CRIED.
That's different.
You were depressed, too, the first time you read it.
BUT SHE DIED AT A STRANGE TIME.
It would've ruined the excitement if she had been saved!
YOU'RE SO MEAN, SENPAI!
SHE WAS KILLED JUST BEFORE SHE FOUND HAPPINESS!
BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY GOOD PERSON IN THE BOOK WHO DIDN'T HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES!
I don't care.
YEAH...
IT ACTUALLY CAUSED A LITTLE PROBLEM...
CAFE
NORTH HIGH FESTIVAL

AN ORDINARY CAFE'S NOT QUITE ENOUGH.
WHY DON'T WE DRESS UP LIKE BUTLERS?!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, MAE-MURA?
SERI-OUSLY?!
COUNT BAILEY SOUNDS GREAT.
I'VE NEVER READ SUCH A THICK BOOK BEFORE.
BUTLERS ARE SO COOL.
MY RELATIVES HAD A SPECIAL EVENT AT THEIR COMPANY. THEY SAID WE CAN BORROW THEIR OLD COSTUMES.
It was my first time staying up all night reading, too.
I want a butler like Alex.
I COULDN'T WAIT FOR THE LAST VOLUME TO BE RETURNED, SO I BOUGHT MY OWN.
Long-forgotten memories from elementary school
YOU WANT US TO START PREPARING FOR THAT NOW?
WE CAN BORROW A FEW COS-TUMES.
WE WERE GOING TO USE GARCON OUTFITS ANYWAY... WE'LL JUST ADD TO THAT.
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING SPECIAL.

JUMP
RIT-CHAN COULD WEAR ONE!
?!
YOU BOYS ARE NO FUN.
Shut up!
YOU MUST NOT BE CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO WEAR THEM.
If you insist, I guess we can wear them.
THE BOYS DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THEM, ANYWAY.
BUTLER COS-TUMES...
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING TO DRESS LIKE THAT.
Everyone will be looking at us!
Ahhh
KAWAI-SAN?!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO STARTED THE COUNT BAILEY BOOM IN CLASS 2-C.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
MAEMURA-SAN, WHAT...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE'D LOOK GOOD IN MEN'S CLOTHES.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
SHE IS KIND OF ANDRO-GYNOUS.
GREAT. YOU'LL DRESS AS A MAN.
WHAT?
HOLD ON.
WAIT.
WHAT?

SO,
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BUTLER?
I bet it'd be a good look for you.
I RE-FUSED...
BUT I FEEL LIKE I WASN'T CLEAR ENOUGH.
I'm worried.
ARE YOU GONNA SAY, "WELCOME HOME, MISS"?
How wonder-ful! ♡
WOULDN'T "MADAME" BE BETTER? YOU MIGHT NOT GET TO HEAR THOSE WORDS AGAIN.
I'M SURPRISED THAT GIRL REACHED OUT TO YOU AGAIN.
Wel-come home. ♡
I'm back. ♡
...
MAYBE SHE FEELS A WEIRD SENSE OF OBLIGATION.

WHAT?
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS PRETENDING.
IF SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT PRETENDING TO ENJOY TALKING ABOUT BOOKS,
I DON'T REALLY MIND.
SHE REALLY DID SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN WHEN YOU WERE DISCUSSING BOOKS.
WHAT?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE
I DON'T REALLY LIKE HER SINCE I SAW SENPAI'S TEARS...
SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO READ IF SHE DIDN'T ENJOY IT...
IF IT'S POPULAR IN YOUR CLASS,
ISN'T THAT WHAT IT MEANS?
WHEN YOU GET REALLY INTO A BOOK, YOU WANT TO RECOMMEND IT TO SOMEONE.
ARE YOU SURE?
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO THINK IT WAS ALL A LIE.

THEY'RE RIGHT. I'VE MADE THE SAME ASSUMPTION BEFORE...
You should learn from Mukaino-san's experienced negative perspective.
This is why you're so naive, virgin.
YOU'RE ASSUMING THE BEST OF PEOPLE AGAIN.

PLEASE SHUT UP, MADAME.
I'M NOT LISTENING.
YOU BASTARD.
THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO READ THIS BOOK...
AT THE VERY LEAST,
I ENJOY TALKING WITH YOU, SENPAI.
By the way...
USA-KUN, WHAT IS YOUR CLASS DOING?
NOW, NOW. THAT'S ENOUGH.

PLEASE DON'T EXPECT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DO SUCH UNWHOLESOME THINGS TO YOU.
ARE YOU GOING TO BEAT ANYONE TO A PULP?
Like me?
HUH? LIKE AN OCTOPUS HOLD.
WHAT? WHY?
ARE YOU TYING UP YOUR SALESPEOPLE WITH TWINE?
WE'RE DOING TAKOYAKI.

EVEN IF YOU'RE CLOSE IN AGE, THEY'RE NOT LIKE YOU.
THEY'RE STILL PURE, INSECURE CHILDREN.
THEY HAVE NO TOLER-ANCE FOR POISON.
SUMIKO-SAN, THAT'S QUITE THE STATE-MENT.
IT'S A CRIME FOR YOU TO MAKE A MOVE ON ANYONE.
I'M NOT THAT MUCH OLDER.
TCH.
AGE: 20
WHAT?
I WANNA GO.
LET'S ALL GO TO THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL TOGETHER.
it sounds fun.
I JUST WANT TO WATCH INSECURE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE MY TYPE.
sigh
I THINK THEY ALL PRETTY FIRMLY DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR TYPE.
I WON'T TALK TO THEM, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY THEIR LONGING GAZES.
I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING THAT GUY WHO'S IN LOVE WITH ME... TAGAMI, RIGHT?
TAGAMI'S CURRENT-LY...
what?
And I lost weight.
...PURSUING A GIRL IN OUR CLASS...

I JUST PUT A CURSE ON YOU AND HIM THAT WILL TURN SOME OF THE BONES IN YOUR BODY INTO ALOE JELLY.
WHY ME?
HAVE FUN IN P.E..
DON'T!

Oh, good. There's no way it'll work now.
SACRIFICE

GOOD MORN-ING.
Oh!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
WE HEARD THE NEWS, USA.

Tagami's Smart Phone
WE GOT A TEXT FROM TAGAMI.
TELL US MORE ABOUT IT.
WHAT?
WE HEARD YOU WERE WORKING AT A HOUSEBOY CAFE.
IT MIGHT BE FUN TO DRESS UP AS HOUSEBOYS FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL AND SELL TAKOYAKI.
WHAT?
COULD YOU GET US ANY COSTUMES THROUGH YOUR CONNECTIONS?
SORRY... I WAS JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW.
YOU...
YOU'RE MY FRIEND, RIGHT? HELP ME OUT.
I'll treat you to something sometime.
TAGAMI'S ROMANTIC INTEREST
ANYWAY, WE WERE SAYING...
LET'S GO TO THE HOUSEBOY CAFE AFTER SCHOOL.
I WANNA GO!
TA-GAMI...
BUT I ALREADY QUIT.
BUT THEY GREW REALLY ATTACHED TO YOU AND COUNTED ON YOU FOR EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

ME, TOO.
YOU'LL GO, RIGHT, USA?
HEY... WAIT!
ARE YOU BUSY?
NOT BUSY, BUT...
SENPAI AND I AGREED TO WALK HOME TOGETHER.
WELL, NOT REALLY.
BY THE WAY, USA, SOMETIMES YOU WALK HOME WITH A SECOND-YEAR.
ARE YOU TWO DATING?
WHAT?
I said,
ARE YOU TWO DATING?
ONE MORE TIME.
I SAID, ARE YOU TWO DATING?
So happy...
Figured it out.

OH, RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS TO OTHER PEOPLE.
SO, BASICALLY...
CRAP. I'M SMILING...
YOU'RE NOT DATING HER, SO YOU'RE FREE.
OKAY, THEN.
WE'LL FORCE USA TO ACCOMPANY US FOR THE CLASS.
urgh
RIT-CHAN!
MAE-MURA-SAN.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU CROSS-DRESS.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT'VE DONE IT AGAIN.
IT'S AL-READY DECID-ED?!
BUT I PROMISE YOU'LL LOOK GOOD!
BESIDES... EVERYONE LOVES COUNT BAILEY.
I THINK IT'LL BE FUN TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I MEAN... WASN'T IT AMAZING WHEN ARLENE DIED?

whoa!
LOOK AT THE TIME.
YOU'RE GOING TO THE LIBRARY, RIGHT?
BOOK
WAITING IN THE CASHTLE
CAN I ASK YOU TO RETURN THIS?
SURE.
I'M NOT... BE-CAUSE...
BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE LONELY WITHOUT ANYONE TO DISCUSS BOOKS WITH.
YOU LIKE BEING ALONE,
SEN-PAI!
YOU SHOULD BORROW IT!
EXIT
IT WAS HILARIOUS.
ARE YOU RETURNING SOME-THING?
...
I READ THIS BEFORE.
IT'S A REALLY EASY READ.
I BET USA-KUN WOULD LIKE IT.
SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON...
BUT WE'RE NOT ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH.
...

I'D LIKE TO BORROW THIS.
MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO SENPAI.
BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS WALK HOME TOGETHER...
IF I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO TELL HER...
And?
...AND SHE REACTED LIKE THAT, IT'D BE SAD.

SENPAI'S SEAT IS BY THE WINDOW...
THERE SHE IS.
!
DID SHE SEE ME?!
HUH?
WAS IT MY IMAG-INATION?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, USA?
LET'S GO.
OH...
OKAY.

Lisa, you're like a dog.
Shut up.
A mongrel.
OH, MY. FOR A CULTURAL FESTIVAL?

I WON'T WORK HERE AGAIN!
BUT I HAVE A CONDITION.
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP.
HEY!
YOU CAN HAVE HIM.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S NOT WITH YOU TODAY?
HAYASHI.
USA-KUN.
You're always here.
DON'T SELL ME!
THEY WANT YOU EVEN WHILE THE ECONOMY'S IN THE TOILET. WAY TO GO, USA.
YOU'LL MAKE THE OWNER AND OUR CLASS HAPPY. IT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
WHAT ABOUT MY HAPPI-NESS?!
WHAT?
M-MY GIRL-FRIEND?! YOU MEAN SENPAI?!
IS THAT HOW IT LOOKS?!
THEY'RE NOT DATING...
OH, MAN.
Don't make a deal while I'm distracted.
T-K

CHAPTER 6/END

OH, RIGHT. SUMIKO-SAN.
I'M WORKING LATE TONIGHT AND DON'T NEED DINNER.
ME, NEITHER!
TODAY, TOO?
I'M BUSY PREPARING FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL...
HOW NICE. YOU'RE REALLY ENJOYING YOUR YOUTH.
I WISH I COULD SIT IN THE CORNER OF THE CLASSROOM AT NIGHT AND CUT CARD-BOARD
WHILE STEALING GLANCES AT PEOPLE SUDDENLY GROWING CLOSE AND OFFERING TO WALK EACH OTHER HOME.
COULD YOU NOT PAINT SUCH DEPRESSING PICTURES SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

COUPLES DO TEND TO FORM DURING CULTURAL FESTIVALS.
MAYBE IT'S THE EFFECT OF SCHOOL AT NIGHT.
USA, YOU SHOULD TAKE A LEAP AND CROSS THE LINE WITH YOUR VICE-PRINCIPAL.
GAY, OLD, AND BALDING FETISH... WHOOPS, THAT'S THREE LINES.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

CHAPTER 7

I'M WORKING LATE, BUT YOU'RE FOOLING AROUND WITH SCHOOL FESTIVALS. YOU'D BETTER CROSS AT LEAST FIVE LINES.
WHAT ARE THE LAST TWO FETISHES?
CHEW

YOUR SALESPEOPLE ARE DRESSING AS HOUSE-BOYS?
THEY GOT REALLY EXCITED BY THE IDEA.
THEY SOLD ME IN A SECOND WHEN THE OWNER SAID SHE'D LET US BORROW OUTFITS IF I STARTED WORKING AGAIN.
Their treatment of me is awful!
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK?
I SAID I'D JUST WORK WHEN THEY REALLY NEED ME...
...USA-KUN, YOU'RE TOO NICE.
Ugh...
THEY'RE MAKING OUR SIGN AND DECORATIONS MORE ELABORATE, TOO.
THERE'S NO TIME. I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'LL MAKE IT.
HOW'S YOUR CLASS' PREPARATIONS COMING ALONG?
GOOD... SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL AT NIGHT.
Relieved
WE HAVE LESS TIME TOGETHER AS IS.
WE'RE MOSTLY FINISHED.
HUH?
IS THAT A NEW BOOK?
It's different from before.
!

WELL, IT'S NO SURPRISE.
...
IT'S BEEN GETTING DARK EARLY. BE CAREFUL WHILE YOU READ AND WALK.
YOU'LL BE DOING IT WITHOUT ME FOR A WHILE.
JUST KIDDING...
...
I'm sorry for getting ahead of myself. Your silence hurts.
.....
...
Eh? Then...
?
USA-KUN, GOOD MORNING.
U...
HEY!
WHACK
AN-DO...
Ouch...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP YESTERDAY.
YOU FORCED ME TO DO IT.

To make up for it?
NOW, NOW... I'LL LEND YOU THIS.
A DSD?
MY BROTHER HASN'T BEEN PLAYING AT ALL. YOU CAN RETURN IT ANY TIME.
WHAT?
IT'S GOT DEMON HUNTER 3 ON IT.
ARE YOU SURE?
DON'T YOU LOVE DEMON HUNTER, USA?
YEAH!
I WAS REALLY INTO IT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I WAS SO DEPRESSED WHEN I BROKE MY DSD.
3 HAS A PRETTY NICE SYSTEM.
I'M SO EXCITED! THANKS.

THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL'S THIS WEEKEND.
Sayaka-chan usually goes out at night, though.
USA-KUN'S LATE AGAIN TODAY.
I WONDER HOW MUCH CARDBOARD HE CUT... I'M SO JEALOUS.
すか
Again?
Usa, cut this.
Meanwhile, Usa...
This, too.
Those are for your club!
I'M LONELY BECAUSE I HAV-EN'T TALKED TO USA-KUN LATELY. RIGHT, RIT-CHAN?
WHAT?
I'M NOT LONELY.
SHE TURNED THE PRIN-CIPAL INTO AN IMP...
Enjoying his youth.
I'M BORED.
HE SHOULD FIGHT OVER THE VICE-PRINCIPAL WITH THE PRINCIPAL.
YOU AND USA-KUN HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON!
Basically.
OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT.

...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...
OH?
OH... YOU MEAN LIKE THE BOOKS HE'S BEEN READING LATELY?
BOOKS AREN'T EVEN HIS THING, BUT HE'S FORCING HIMSELF TO DO IT.
THAT'S OBVIOUS...
...
BOOKS AREN'T USA-KUN'S FAVORITE THING.
HUH?
WHAT?
I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT USA HERE.
HE'D OBVIOUSLY CHOOSE GAMES OR COMICS INSTEAD...

I FEEL LIKE I'M DIRECTING THIS CONVERSATION IN A REALLY UNINTENTIONAL DIRECTION.
Why! is she making that face?
THIS WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL.
I'M NOT SAYING ANY MORE!
IT'S NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO PREFER ACTIVITIES WITH THINGS OR PEOPLE THEY LIKE OR ENJOY MORE.
HEY... DON'T, SUMIKO-SAN!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT STOP!
IT'S NATURAL...
SHIRO! SAY SOMETHING!
SPEAKING OF GAMES, I HEARD DEMON HUNTER LETS YOU USE SOME REAL BONDAGE TECHNIQUES.
WELL DONE!
Great atmosphere.
DEMON HUNTER...
WHY?!
I don't understand!

URGH.
MY RESERVES ARE RUNNING LOW ON SENPAI...
WE CAN'T WALK HOME TOGETHER.
AND WE DON'T EVEN TALK AT HOME.
WHAT DO YOU DISCUSS WITH THAT UN-FRIENDLY PERSON?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT?
Have some more.
Again...
SHE'S NOT LIKE YOU.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER GIRLS YOU HAVE BETTER CONVERSATIONS WITH.
I FINALLY...
...FELT CLOSE TO HER RECENTLY.
IF I DON'T TRY TO GET CLOSE TO HER, SHE'LL DRIFT AWAY...
And I've started to enjoy reading.
IN ANY CASE, I LIKE SENPAI!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO AFTER SOMEONE SO DIFFICULT.
YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF TO READ, AREN'T YOU?
...
AT LEAST PICK SOMEONE WHO SMILES...
SENPAI SMILES, TOO!
NOT OFTEN, THOUGH.
SERIOUSLY? I KINDA WANT TO SEE THAT.
I'LL NEVER LET YOU SEE IT.
It's as destructive as it is rare.
YOU'RE KIND OF SIMPLE-MINDED AND PERSISTENT.
LIKE A GIRL.
It's scary.
Shut up, General Boobs.

WELL...
I WONDER WHAT SENPAI'S DOING RIGHT NOW.
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT ME.
SHE'S PROBABLY ABSORBED IN A BOOK
WE'VE DRIFTED APART AGAIN.
I ALWAYS WORRIED THAT
北高文化祭
SIGN NORTH HIGH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

USA...
YOU HAVE A CUSTOMER.
HUH?
WHY AREN'T YOU DRESSED LIKE A HOUSEBOY?
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO TILT YOUR HEAD QUIZZICALLY AT ME.
SIGN: TAKOYAKI TAKE A BREAK WITH HOUSEBOYS
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHY ARE YOU WEARING A PAPER BAG?
I PREPARED NORMAL CLOTHES FOR YOU SO NO ONE WOULD CALL THE COPS ON YOU!
It's a miracle no one's called them yet.
WELL... WHEN HE PUT ON THOSE CLOTHES...

Thanks for waiting
IT PISSED ME OFF, SO I MADE HIM WEAR IT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WEARING A BAG? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HOW INFURIATING.
Your clothes are normal and boring.
THE COOKS ARE DRESSED LIKE THIS.
ONLY THE WAITERS ARE DRESSED LIKE HOUSE-BOYS...
HUH?
MAYUMI-SAN?
TAGAMI-KUN, RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
IS THERE A SEAT OPEN?
Y...
YES!
Thanks for waiting
THE TAKOYAKI COOKER IS HOT.
AND IT'S PRETTY WARM TODAY.
YOU SEEM HOT.

YEAH...
IT
SURE IS HOT TODAY...
GULP
HOT!
I
BURNED MY TONGUE...
SNIFFLE

SHE'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO GET THEM...
Thank you... You're so nice.
Are you okay?
H-Have some water!
HEY, USA!
TAGAMI, GET TO WORK!
DON'T BRING THOSE NUISANCES HERE!
TAGAMI'S FINISHED...
YOU'RE THE TYPE TO GRAB FISH WITH DRY HANDS AND THROW THEM IN THE FIRE!
IT'S CATCH AND RELEASE.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO LURE THEM IN A LITTLE.
GO HOME ALREADY!
That's a third year girl (18) over there.
SHIRO-SAN'S EYES MAKE THEIR FIRST APPEAR-ANCE!
JUST LIKE SHIRO-KUN.
YOU'RE ONLY MEANT TO ENJOY LOOKING.
THIS ISN'T A FISHING POND. IT'S AN AQUA-RIUM.
MAYUMI-CHAN, SAYAKA-CHAN.

SENPAI...
WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE RIT-CHAN.
DO YOUR BEST.
I WISH I COULD GO SEE HER.
MAYBE SHE'S DRESSED AS A BUTLER.
WHEN'S MY BREAK?
USA?
IT IS YOU.
Not many guys from Middle went to North High.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE GRADUATION.
MY MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSMATES...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
I DON'T LIKE THESE GUYS MUCH.
THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM...
DID YOU SEE THAT GUY WEARING A BAG ON HIS HEAD?
YOU'RE STILL FREAK SHOW, HUH?
...BUT THEY CAN BE BLUNT.
Ha ha ha
SPEAKING OF FREAK SHOW,
DID YOU HEAR THE RUMORS ABOUT HAYASHI?

CREPES
...
Oh.
REALLY? LATER.
I NEED TO GET BACK...
...
HA HA HA HA
SHE MADE HER HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT!
ISN'T THAT HILARIOUS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER.
CONSIDERING WHAT SHE'S WORKING WITH, NO AMOUNT OF EFFORT CAN SAVE HER.
WHEN I RAN INTO HER, WE SAID WE SHOULD EXCHANGE PICTURES.
WHAT IS SHE, A TSUCHINOKO?
I bet it's a photo of a ghost!
WELL... IT'LL BE FINE.
USA-KUN!
I brought you something interesting
BUSINESS SEEMS GOOD.
THEY WON'T RUN INTO...
I CAME WITH THE OWNER.

RIT-CHAN.
Working in back of the house.
MENU
TEXT: TEA CAFE WE HAVE BUTLERS!!
SURE...
Better than the restaurant.
COULD YOU COME TO THE REGISTER?
COME WITH ME.
HUH?
WAIT.
Wait
WHOA.

RIT-CHAN, YOU LOOK SO COOL.
YOU LOOK GREAT!
YOU LOOK LIKE A BOY AT FIRST GLANCE.
And you have shoulder pads
YOU SAID THE REGISTER...
COME STAND NEXT TO THE REGISTER.
M...
MAE-MURA-SAN
I WON'T MAKE YOU INTERACT WITH CUSTOMERS!
YOU CAN HOLD THIS AND GO TAKE A BREAK. YOU'LL HELP ADVERTISE FOR US.
No way...
CAN WE TAKE PIC-TURES?
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
2-C
Tea Cafe
We have butlers

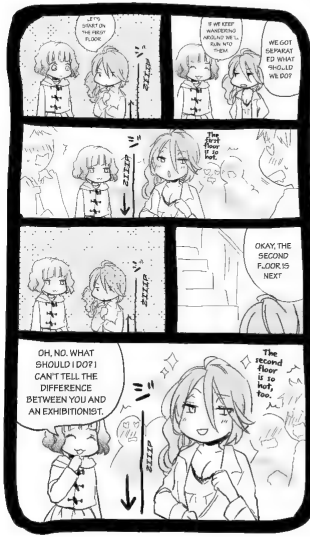
KAWAI-SAN?!
YOU'RE SO COOL.
SIGN. REGISTER
YOU LOOK LIKE A BUTLER FROM THE ASSORTED CRIMES OF COUNT BAILEY!
YOUR BLACK CLOTHES AND ANDROGY-NOUS LOOK!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FOUND THAT BOOK, RIGHT?
Oh.
YEAH...
IT WAS SO INTEREST-ING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE ARLENE DIED.
2-C
Tea Cafe
We have butlers
YEAH.
ARLENE SHOULD'VE ASKED TO BE SAVED.
THE COUNT IS SO UNFAIR!
BUT THE LAST PART WAS UNFAIR!
Yeah, yeah...

WHACK
I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS AND GO TAKE MY BREAK!
Oh, my.
O... okay...
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.
I was trying to be quiet so I wouldn't get in your way.
WE GOT SEPARATED FROM MAYUMI-CHAN AND SAYAKA-CHAN.
LET'S GO BACK TO USA-KUN.

HAYASHI, YOU SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT?
WHY?!
I just got here.
BECAUSE...
OUR FORMER CLASSMATES WERE MAKING FUN OF HER!
CAN I TELL HER THAT TO HER FACE?!
Uh, um...
THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE WEIRD AROUND.
IT'S DANGEROUS...

CHAPTER 7/END

MEANWHILE THESE TWO


IT'S START ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
IF WE KEEP WANDERING AROUND WE'LL RUN INTO THEM
WE GOT SEPARATED WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
The first floor is so hot!
OKAY, THE SECOND FLOOR IS NEXT
OH, NO. WHAT SHOULD I DO? I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND AN EXHIBITIONIST.
The second floor is so hot, too.

Wizard Sayaka pretending to be embarrassed to attract pure boys.

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 13

SHOULDN'T WE WALK AROUND THE CULTURE FESTIVAL TOGETHER?
RIT-CHAN?
Is something wrong?
I'M GOING BACK.
WHAT?!
You seemed fine when we decided to go.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW.
WHY? USA-KUN'S RIGHT THERE.
The takoyaki stall is right outside the door.
MY OUTFIT IS EMBARRASSING.
YOU SHOULD TELL USA-KUN ABOUT MAEMURA-SAN.
WHEN HE HEARS THAT...

CHAPTER 8

...HE'LL BE EVEN HAPPIER THAN YOU.
TOGETH-ER...?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D NOTICE CONSIDERING THE EXTENT OF HER TRANSFORMATION.
IF SHE'S WITH ME, THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO NOTICE HAYASHI!
THAT WOULD HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING
?

I CAN'T... TOGETH-ER...
Oh.
I'M GONNA GO SEE SENPAI.
SHE'S RUNNING A BUTLER CAFE.
I WANT TO GO, TOO.
THAT SOUNDS FUN.
WHAT?
BUT...
USA!
GREAT, YOU'RE STILL HERE.
THE OWNER BROUGHT SOMETHING AWESOME.
COME HERE!

HEY!
!!!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
JUST COME.
HUH?!
WHAT DID SHE...
JUST COME.
HAYASHI!
ANYWAY, THAT'S THAT.
Sorry.
IT'S GHOST WHISPERER HAYASHI-CHAN!
Long time, no see.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT!
You're not "ghost whisperer Hayashi"?
It's like I haven't changed!
DID YOU COME TO SEE USA-KUN?
NO!
Oh.
She could've abused me if I did something to upset her...
HEY, WASN'T THAT...
Hm?, that wifey she ran away?

...HAYASHI?
The ghost whisperer.
IT'S EXHAUSTING HAVING EVERYONE LOOK AT ME...
Who knows what they'll make me do if I go back...
SIGH
SERIOUSLY?
YOU LOOK EVEN BETTER THAN THEY SAY.
Tea Cafe
We have butlers
YOU OVERDID IT!
IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN!
THAT VOICE...
ARE YOU STILL FOLLOWING USA AROUND?
USA SHOULD TELL YOU YOU'RE A NUISANCE ALREADY.

I THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH USA-KUN...
HAYASHI-SAN.
USA-KUN'S TOO NICE TO—
NAH, HE'S NOT NICE.
HE'S JUST A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
MAYBE A COWARD.
USA-KUN
ISN'T A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING OR A COWARD.
HE'S A NICE PERSON.
HE'S JUST DIFFERENT FROM DISINGENUOUS PEOPLE
WHO DESPERATELY SEARCH FOR PEOPLE "LOWER" THAN THEMSELVES
AND ONLY VERBALLY ABUSE THOSE THAT CAN'T HURT THEM.

OH, REALLY?
?!
WHAT?!
DON'T HIDE YOUR FACE.
DON'T!
STOP!
AND SEND IT TO THE GUYS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL
WE'RE JUST GONNA COMMEMORATE YOUR DEBUT
HOLD HER ARMS
LET GO!
STOP!

WHACK
!?
TWITCH
THAT HURT.
YOU BAS-TARD...
WAIT, YOU JERK!

...
WAS THAT...
STEP
STEP
STEP
北高祭
メイン会場は
体育館
です!!
DID HE GO THAT WAY?
WHERE DID THAT BASTARD GO?
SEARCH THE OTHER SIDE!
WE'LL RECOGNIZE HIS RIDICULOUS OUTFIT INSTANTLY!

SLIDE
IT'S OKAY
I'M OKAY BY MYSELF..
hey
JUMP
IT'S OKAY.
IF I JUST SIT STILL....
what are you doing?
sorry
ha ha ha

SIGN: NORTH HIGH
THE MAIN AREA IS IN THE SOUTHERN BUILDING
GO TO THE NEXT BUILDING!

RATTLE
カラッ
SENPAI!

PFFPT
THE OWNER BROUGHT THIS MEN'S SIZE MAID OUTFIT AS A JOKE.
EVERYONE GOT CARRIED AWAY, AND...
They made me wear it.
USA-KUN, YOU LOOK GOOD IN JUST ABOUT EVERY-THING.
YOU'RE QUITE WON-DERFULLY DRESSED YOURSELF, SENPAI.
ANYWAY, SENPAI!
YOU WERE RECKLESS AGAIN!
I WAS SO FLUSTERED WHEN I GOT THE CALL! I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON!
I really do think it's amazing, but...

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE CALLED ME.
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
"HELP ME"
...SHE CHOSE TO DEPEND ON ME.
NEXT TIME CALL ME BEFORE YOU PICK A FIGHT.
I'll never forgive them.
I WAS PRETTY BUSY PREPARING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
...BUT I FINALLY FINISHED IT TWO NIGHTS AGO! I WAS SO TIRED...
WHAT?
BY THE WAY, I FINISHED THE ASSORTED CRIMES OF COUNT BAILEY!
I'm taking off my coat since it makes me stand out!
Would you like to wear my maid outfit?
No.
HUH?
DID I TELL YOU I BORROWED DEMON HUNTER?
WHAT ABOUT DEMON HUNTER?

BUT I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
I WANT TO PLAY DEMON HUNTER, TOO,
...
IF I'D NEVER MET YOU, I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT
I'D CHOOSE READING A BOOK OVER PLAYING A GAME.
IT REALLY WAS INTERESTING, THOUGH.
THOSE CRIMES HAVE GOTTA BE AGAINST THE RULES.
ESPECIALLY THOSE LAST FIVE PAGES!
I JUST COULDN'T HATE THE COUNT AFTER THAT...
OH!
YOU NEED TO BE GETTING BACK SOON, RIGHT?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK...
I WANT TO LISTEN.

I WANT
TO HEAR
IT NOW.
OH...
ストン

?
...
PLEASE...
PLEASE GIVE ME A MINUTE...
HUH?
...
UM...
Not a very good book?
WHEW.
I'M FINALLY BACK TO MY NORMAL LIFE...

MAE-MURA-SAN.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
SHE REALLY DID ENJOY TALKING ABOUT BOOKS.
YOU KNOW,
YOU SEEMED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT IT.
I thought I'd tell you.
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!
...
AND...
what...
WHAT KIND OF GAME
IS DEMON HUNTER?

I DON'T KNOW
DO YOU LIKE GAMES, TOO?
HOW UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO WANT TO DISCUSS ANYTHING OTHER THAN BOOKS
THAT GROWING APART
I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
IS NATURAL
IS NEVER-ABLE

ISN'T SOME-THING I WANT TO BELIEVE.
HUH?
YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES TOGETHER? THAT'S UNUSUAL.
IF YOU WERE A GIRL, USA...
...YOU AND RIT-CHAN WOULD'VE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS...
WHAT?
YOU EASILY ACCEPT THE THINGS THAT MAKE RIT-CHAN DIFFICULT.
YOU EVEN ACCEPT HER HOBBIES.
THINK ABOUT IT. A FRIEND LIKE USA!
...
THAT MIGHT BE NICE...
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT? TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE HIM?
I SUCCESSFULLY LED HER ASTRAY THIS TIME.
Whew. That was close.
Embarrassed
USA-KUN DOESN'T MIND.
CHAPTER 8/END

I FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T WORK.

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 14

USA-KUN.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO. LET ME PUT YOU IN AN OCTOPUS HOLD.
WHY DID YOU THINK I'D AGREE TO THAT?
I DON'T MIND DOING IT TO YOU.
I MAY BE INEXPERI-ENCED, BUT PLEASE!
DAMN IT! HE TRICKED ME!
??
THIS DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT...
STAGGER
WHOA.
MY BALANCE...
WHUP
ACK!
OW...
CRACK
OH.

CHAPTER 9
OH, MY.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
UM...
SHIRO-SAN AND I...
I'M SURE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING MOVES DISGUST SENPAI.
Heh, heh.
WE WERE JUST HAVING SOME MALE FUN.
YOU WERE GRAPPLING SO INTENSELY YOU BROKE THE WALL?
WE WERE DOING SOME WHOLE-SOME OCTOPUS HOLDS.
THE SAND COATING WAS PRETTY DAMAGED HERE.
I NEED TO PUT ON A NEW COAT...

YOKO-CHAN'S COMING OVER THIS WEEKEND.
YOKO-CHAN?
I'LL TALK TO HER ABOUT IT.
MA-BU-CHI-SAN?!
YOKO-SAN'S COMING BACK FROM TOKYO?
SHE'S COMING BACK FOR THE LONG WEEKEND.
SHE CALLED TO SAY SHE'D BE COMING.
MABUCHI-SAN IS THE FORMER RESIDENT FROM BEFORE SAYAKA-SAN.
YOKO-CHAN DOES ARCHITECTURAL WORK.
SHE MADE VARIOUS REPAIRS WHILE LIVING AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
She flattered the other rooms and fixed the tiles.
NOW SHE WORKS AT AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OFFICE IN TOKYO.
REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING...
WHEN SHE LIVED HERE...

IT'S LIKE THE BUSINESS VERSION OF MAYUMI-SAN.
AND SHE WAS ROBBED AT HER NEXT JOB.
SHE GOT CAUGHT IN A LAWSUIT AGAINST HER BULLY OF A BOSS.
BANKRUPTCY AFTER BANKRUPTCY...
SHE WORKED IN SOME REAL SWEATSHOPS...
...SHE WAS UNEMPLOYED AND ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE...
SHOULD YOU BE TREATING THOSE SITUATIONS EQUALLY?
...WAS A ROUGH DAY FOR THE KAWAI COMPLEX
THE TIME MABUCHI-SAN'S COWORKER WAS CAUGHT EMBEZZLING FROM HER COMPANY AND MAYUMI-SAN'S BOYFRIEND WAS CAUGHT MISAPPROPRIATING A COWORKER'S WIFE...
CHANGE "WORK" TO "MAN" AND APPLY THAT TO YOURSELF.
WORK IS SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS. I'M SURPRISED SHE COULD GET SO INTO IT.
EVEN THOUGH SHE KEPT FALLING INTO DESPAIR, SHE STILL LIKED WORKING.
IT WAS VEXING.
SHE WAS REALLY MOTIVATED, BUT IT NEVER PAID OFF...
I suppose it does.
Doesn't that mean it should be my turn soon?!
ALL HER SUFFERING DIDN'T GO TO WASTE.
BUT ULTIMATELY SHE ENDED UP AT THE AGENCY OF AN ARCHITECT SHE ADMIRES.

SUMIKO-SAN, LONG TIME, NO SEE.
OH.
NEW FACES! THEY'RE SO YOUNG.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I KNEW YOU HADN'T GOTTEN MARRIED YET!
SHE'S CANDIDLY INSULTING.
Shiro-kun, you look suspicious as ever!
Yoko-san, you're as biting as ever.
Oh principle.
SHE SEEMS CANDID AND NICE.
YEAH, BUT...
MAYUMI-CHAN?!
HM.

IT'D BE BETTER TO REPAINT ALL THE WALLS IN THIS ROOM.
EVEN AN AMATEUR CAN EASILY SLAP ON THIS PLASTER.
OTHER AREAS ARE FALLING APART, TOO.
MY FRIEND HAD SOME IN STOCK.
EVEN I CAN DO IT?!
I wanna try!
EASILY! BESIDES, SHIRO-KUN AND MAYUMI-CHAN HAVE EXPERIENCE.
TEXT: SCALLOP BRAND PLASTER
ISN'T THAT A LOT OF WORK?
THE TOOLS WE USED LAST TIME SHOULD BE IN STORAGE.
I like plastering.
IT'S FUN! I'LL HELP!
BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT RIGHT AWAY.
IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST TWO DAYS TO PREPARE...
I'D LIKE TO HELP, TOO!

OH... THAT'S OKAY!
YOU DON'T GET TO COME BACK OFTEN BECAUSE YOU'RE SO BUSY.
I GOT A BUNCH OF PAID VACATION DAYS.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME...
THAT'S FINE, THEN.

Let the very tedious preparations begin.

Dig at it with a spatula.
FIRST PAINT THE AREA WITH WALL SEPARATING MATERIAL AND REMOVE THE SURFACE WITH A SPATULA.
Wooow, it's peeling off.

Sealer treatment

MAYUMI-SAN, YOU SUCK.
Even though you have experience, it's so uneven.
WONDER
YEAH, BUT YOU...
URGH...
HEH
SAYAKA-CHAN, YOU'RE SO GOOD.
GRIND
GRIND
PEOPLE USED TO CAKING IN ON EVERY DAY SURE ARE DIFFERENT.
impressive.
IF ONLY YOU COULD PAINT OVER YOUR POOR HISTORY WITH MEN LIKE THIS PLASTER WALL.
HOW MANY LAYERS WOULD THAT TAKE?
THE WALL WOULD BE TOO THICK!
whew!
I WONDER IF I CAN PAINT YOU OUT OF EXISTENCE.
My first pallet...
SENPAI.
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND

THIS IS MY SIDE OF THE ROOM...
I'LL BE SURROUNDED BY WALLS I PLASTERED WITH SENPAI...
YOU'RE QUITE THE VIRGIN IF WALLS INSPIRE LUST IN YOU.
HEY!
WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME OVER HERE?
I COVERED ALL THE HOLES, SO IT'S EASY TO PAINT.
I'LL START AT THE TOP.
OKAY.
GASP
OR MAYBE YOUR HIPS WILL GET INTO IT?
I'M SURE IT'LL HELP YOU GET REALLY INTO PLAYING WITH YOURSELF...
GASP
BALLS?
GASP
IN FACT, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LEAVE SOME HOLES.
RIT-CHAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO SUCH A NICE JOB.
Absorbed

SLICE
AS YOU GET OLDER,
YOU STOP HESITATING TO MAKE DIRTY JOKES!
Especially if you don't have a man.
HUH? NO, I DON'T—
MAYUMI-CHAN, HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIKED DIRTY JOKES?
USA-KUN.
She cut her.
SILENCE
She cut her.
I WANT TO DO...
...THE TOP NEXT...
I WANT TO GET ON TOP OF—
THE STEP-LADDER! COME ON UP!
She's endur-ing it.
She's endur-ing it.
GRIND

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES WHILE I WAS ON TOP.
I MIGHT'VE ACCIDENTALLY COVERED SENPAI'S FACE WITH WHITE...
Oh!
I'M SORRY.
It fell off the pallet
I TOOK TOO MUCH.
Oh, Senpai...
DRIP
A—
AH?!

SHUT UP AND ENDURE IT!
DON'T GIVE ME TIME TO FANTA-SIZE.
MAYUMI-SAN! LIFT YOUR DIRTY JOKE BAN!!

THE ATMO-SPHERE'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE I LIVED HERE.
Hee hee
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE.
BUT THINGS WERE FUN BACK THEN, IN THEIR OWN WAY.
YOKO-CHAN,
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA IN THE LIVING ROOM.
Let them handle the rest.
...
RAWRER

I'M LIVING ALONE NOW.
I GET SO LONELY WHEN I GET DE-PRESSED.
YEAH!
BUT YOU WORK FOR A GOOD COMPANY, DON'T YOU?
THERE AREN'T ANY WEIRD CONNECTIONS OR FAVORITISM, EITHER. THEY EMPHASIZE TALENT.
OUR PRODUCT IS STABLE.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY UN-REASONABLE SUPERIORS.
IT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES...
YOU USED TO CONSOLE ME WHILE I ATE DINNER IN HERE.
YOU ATE SO MUCH BACK THEN.
THAT'S WHY...
...IT'S HARD.

I'M STILL ONLY ASSISTING AND PERFORM-ING ODD JOBS,
BUT NEW EMPLOYEES ARE TASKED WITH IMPORTANT MATTERS.
I KEEP MAKING CUSTOM-ERS ANGRY
AND MAKING OTHER MISTAKES.
WHEN I'M ALONE AT NIGHT,
I...
...THINK ABOUT GOING
BACK HOME.
YOKO-SAN.
WE FINISHED PLASTERING THE WALLS.
WOW
That's great!

I JUST...
I THOUGHT IT SEEMED APPROPRI-ATE...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I COULD STILL CREATE A COMMEMO-RATIVE HAND-PRINT.
DON'T TOUCH IT UNTIL IT DRIES.
SOMEDAY, LIKE MABUCHI-SAN...
I WANTED PROOF THAT I LIVED IN THE KAWAI COMPLEX "NOW"...
A MEMORY, I GUESS.
YOU SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO CELEBRATE YOUR ONE MONTH ANNIVERSARY OR THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR FIRST KISS.
YOUR VIRGINAL THOUGHTS ARE PEERLESSLY OBNOXIOUS.

I SHOULD GET GOING.
Thank you.
COME BACK ANYTIME.
SUMIKO-SAN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY WANTED TO DO IT.
I BET YOU WANT RIT-CHAN'S HAND PRINT, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE USING THE WALL TOO MUCH.
That's why she's always cutting into you!
I WANT TO LIVE ..
..IN THE KAWAI COMPLEX AGAIN..
I WANT TO LIVE HERE ONE MORE—
YOU CAN'T.
YOU CAN'T. WE DON'T HAVE ANY OPEN ROOMS.
BUT THERE'S
YOU SAID YOU USED IT BEFORE.
THAT ROOM IN THE BACK YOU'RE USING FOR STORAGE!

YOU CAN'T COME BACK HERE.
ONCE A RESIDENT LEAVES...
...THEY CAN'T COME BACK.

DO YOU WANT TO BE...
...THE PERSON YOU USED TO BE?
I DON'T THINK SO.
SEE?
Those days of seclusion...
CLINGING TO YOUR MEMORIES CAN DESTROY THEM,
SO BE CAREFUL.
SORRY! I GOT NERVOUS AND SAID SOMETHING WEIRD.
IT'S TIME. I SHOULD GO.
THE NEXT TIME YOU COME,
STAY FOR DINNER.
...
YOU REMEMBERED...?
I'LL MAKE YOU HEAPS OF MIXED RICE WITH
LOTS OF BAMBOO SHOOTS.
I WOULD NEVER FORGET.

SO COME BACK...
...ANYTIME.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO DO?
SUMIKO-SAN.
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

IT MUST BE PRETTY DIFFICULT TO PUSH SOMEONE AWAY.
IN THAT CASE, WILL YOU TREAT ME TO MY FAVORITE FOOD?
DO YOU THINK THERE'S A PLACE SELLING BIRD'S NEST SOUP FOR AROUND 800 YEN?
EVEN IF IT DOES EXIST, I WOULDN'T WANT TO EAT THERE.
OH,
THEN LET ME RIDE ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
WHAT?
OH... BUT I GUESS I CAN'T IN A KIMONO.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO EMULATE THE FUTURE OF JAPAN'S SOCIAL STRUCTURE.
One young person supporting one old person.
CARRYING YOU ON MY SHOULDERS MIGHT BE DANGEROUS.
BESIDES...
MAYUMI-SAN SEEMED TO ENJOY IT BEFORE.
THAT'S A SHAME.
MAYBE NEXT TIME...

I'LL CARRY YOU THIS WAY!
AAAH!
THERE!
AAAH!
AAAH!
HA.
HA HA.
HEE HEE.
HOW WON-DERFUL.
THANK YOU, SHIRO-KUN.
CHAPTER 9/END

CUT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT

IT'S SAKE...
AND BOARD GAMES!
TEXT: CARCASSONNE
WE RECEIVED A PACKAGE FROM YOKO-CHAN.
BOX: THIS SIDE UP
By the way, Mafumi-chan, I heard you lost the fall tournament. I think this game is perfect for you, so try again!
"I'm sending you the perfect game for Christmas and New Year's!
WHAT SHOULD I BET ON THIS?
SHE CASUALLY DECLARED SHE WON'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR CHRIST-MAS OR NEW YEAR'S EITHER.